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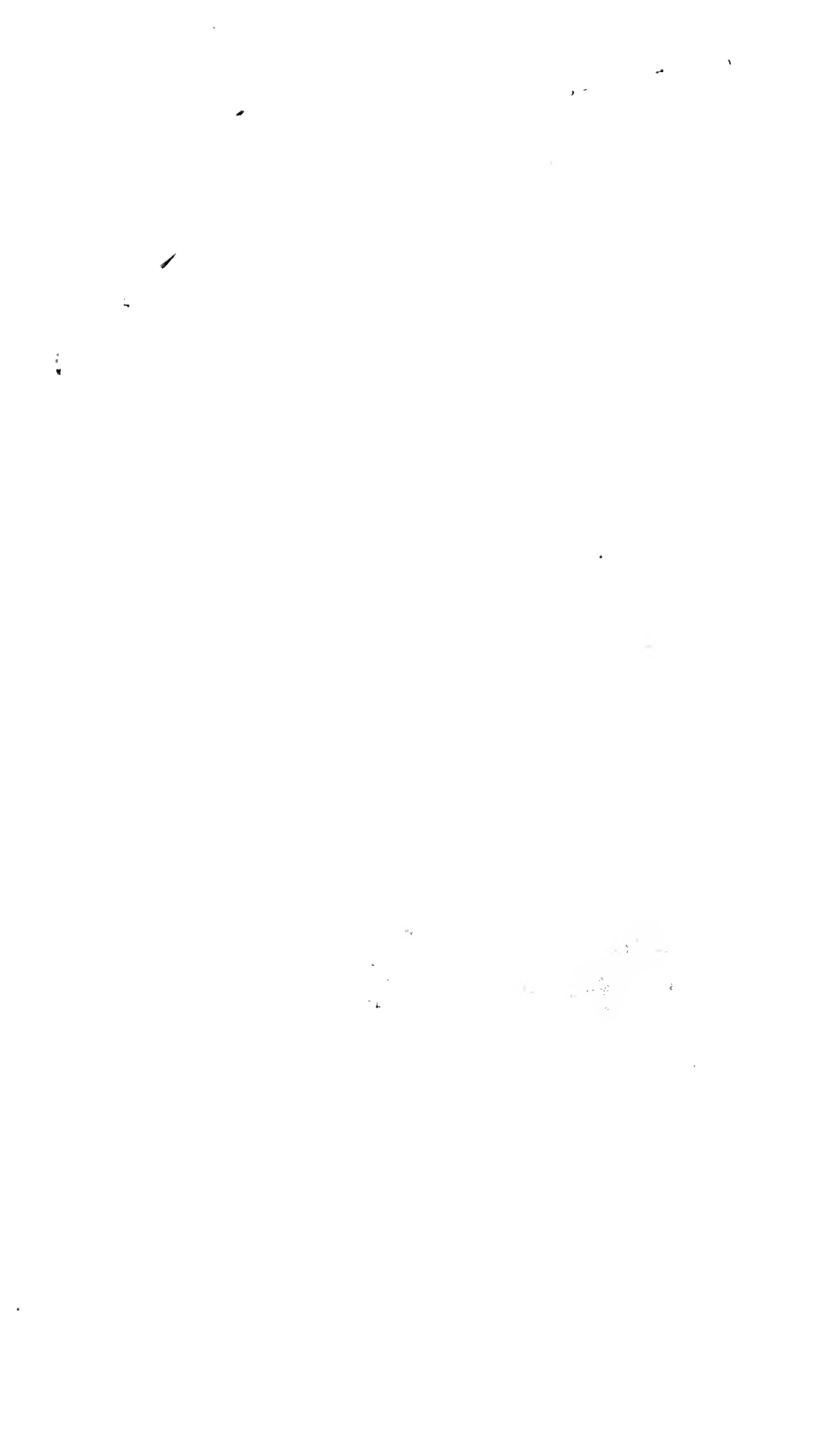
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SKETCHES  
OF  
MONROE  
AND  
UNION COUNTY

TOGETHER WITH GENERAL AND INDIVIDUAL  
CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR PEOPLE AND  
A DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND BUSINESS  
ENTERPRISES

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By STACK & BEASLEY  
Monroe, N. C., July, 1902

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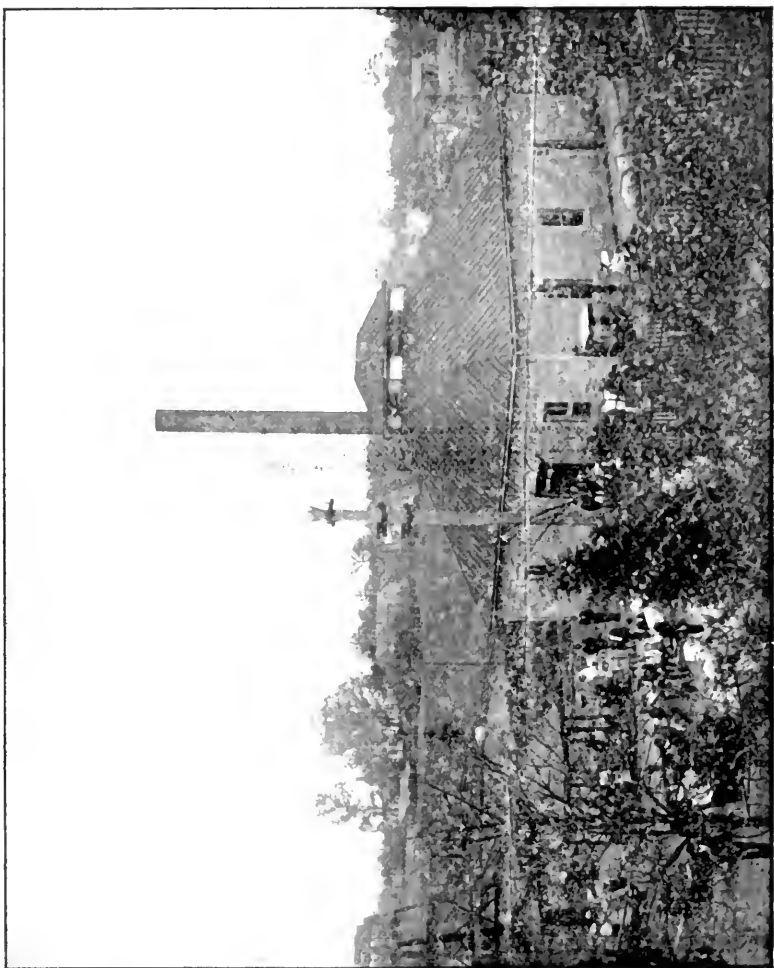
NEWS AND TIMES PRINT



CHARLOTTE, N. C., 1902







MONROE ARTESIAN WELL AND POWER HOUSE.

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PREFACE.

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The object of this publication is to tell, in a modest way, some of the many interesting truths about one of the best counties in the State, and to more fully illustrate the things said a good deal of personal matter is put in. We think the whole will be found interesting from cover to cover. The fine natural advantages of the county, the sturdy and upright character of the people and its rapid progress along all lines of development make it unmistakably one of the best counties in the Old North State.

The progressive spirit of Monroe is marked; for population, it has the finest churches, schools, and public institutions to be found anywhere, and the pure artesian water with which the town is supplied is incomparably healthful. A careful perusal of these pages will repay the reader.

## UNION COUNTY.

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Union county, of which Monroe is the capital, is what may be called a county of middle age in North Carolina, being more than half a century old as a distinct political organization. It contains 640 square miles, lies on the lower border of what is known as the Piedmont region, and is bounded on two sides by the State of South Carolina. Its population by the last census was 27,156. The county has most of the many advantages so generously given the State of which it is a part, some of which it may be well to enumerate at some length. The county tax rate is 19 1-3 cents; special 39 1-3 and \$1.18 on poll. There is practically no debt.

### POPULATION.

The people are natives. While here and there may be found persons from other sections of the country, nowhere do foreigners abound. Indeed, a foreigner of any nationality is a great rarity. The white people are exceedingly thrifty and intelligent. We believe the average of intelligence is equal to that of any county in the State. Law-breaking by the white people is rare, and there has never been but one manifestation of mob violence in the long history of the county. That was for the nameless crime, some twenty years ago. Modest, unassuming people, we have; intelligent, brave, moral. In justice to the colored population a word should be spoken in their behalf. They are law-abiding as a race, and industrious. Certainly there is a great deal of petty crime committed among them, but there is a conspicuous absence of the graver offences. And while there are many shiftless ones about the towns, there are many faithful workers in both towns and country.

### OCCUPATION.

The principal occupation of the people is agriculture. Stock raising, principally for home consumption; mining, lumbering, and wood chopping also receive attention. The towns and vil-

lages of the county are of course turning their attention to manufacturing. Within the county there are two cotton mills, a cotton seed oil mill, several roller flour mills and a number of wood working plants and small canning plants.

### THE PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT.

The Old North State is now a fairy land where the changes being wrought in the development and energizing of her advantages are as magical as some of the deeds fancifully attributed to the work of the fairy's wand. And in this wonderful progress the county of Union is fast forging to the front. The spirit of progress, of "noble restlessness" is upon her people. Everywhere is this manifest. In the splendid improvement of her roads and in her educational work does this show with marked effect. But it is no less manifest in the broadening habits of thought, the lifting of ideals, the quiet but ever onward struggle for better things in both the material and moral worlds.

The average of comfortable living is perhaps as high in this county as over any other section of similar size in the United States. With the painting of a church and the enlargement of a school house go the improvement in farm machinery and farming methods. At only one point in the county can whiskey be sold, and nowhere in the county is there a distillery. Put by the side of these facts the remark of a gentleman who has traveled extensively in almost every State in the Union—"I have," said he, "been all over the blue grass region of Kentucky and I can say that the live stock used by the people of Union county is better on the average than that found in similar use in that famous section"—and we have an idea of the hand to hand progress that the moral and material forces of Union county are making. There is an almost ideal blending of the conservative and the progressive ideas. The two meet in a fine composite—a guarantee that every step made in the onward progress is a real one and shall not be lost.

### SOIL AND CLIMATE.

Prosperity may be built upon different interests, but there are only two things, and they taken together, which guarantee

beyond peradventure a lasting prosperity. These two are favorable soil and climate. Towns are often made rich by the manufacture of a single article—but the market may decline and the whole costly fabric of a profitable industry be rendered valueless. But an agricultural section with a soil easily adapted to an indefinite variety of crops, a climate alike suitable, with an equable rainfall, there is no possibility that the population will not always be happy and prosperous. Union county is free



UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

from excess of heat or cold. Spring and fall are ideal: in the summer the days are warm but the nights pleasant. Winter brings no excessive cold, but there is enough to be bracing. On an average there are about two good snowfalls a year, scarcely ever over six or eight inches in depth. Rainfall is well distributed so that every section of the county is well watered. The northwestern border of the county lies on the Rocky river, while



the Catawba flows near its eastern border. Into these two courses flow numerous large and small creeks, traversing every section of the county, and furnishing many acres of "bottom land," upon which corn grows so vigorously. Much of the soil is naturally very fertile, all of it may be made so. The whole county is remarkable for its healthfulness.

### CROPS.

The principal crops are corn and cotton and wheat and oats, supplemented by rye, clover, grasses, molasses, and a great variety of fruits and vegetables. Much fruit and vegetables are canned and preserved in different ways. As a rule the people make their own supplies. The county is well stocked with improved breeds of cattle and every family that cares to may have abundance of the richest milk and butter at a trifling cost. Cattle may obtain good grazing for eight months in the year. Poultry can be raised at a nominal cost and the market is always good. The great number of poultry and eggs shipped always keep the local market well up.

### FARM, MINERAL AND TIMBER LANDS.

Union county is rich in farm, mineral and timber lands. The soil has already been referred to; good farm lands can be bought for \$5 to \$20 per acre, and can be secured by renters at a very moderate cost. Almost anything known to the temperate zone of North America can be grown. Timber lands abound. The cutting of timber and wood is quite an industry. It is no unusual thing for a person to buy timber land, clear it, and secure enough profit from the sale of wood and timber to pay for the full purchase. Nineteen of the twenty-two species of oak found in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains grow in North Carolina and of these Union county has her share; also of pine, hickory, persimmon, walnut, elm, poplar, cedar, maple, dogwood, sycamore, cherry, ash. The county has unquestioned wealth in her gold mines. Her mines have been worked since the beginning. There are a number of old mines whose richness have been demonstrated, waiting to be taken hold of by

capital and experience. Before the war Commodore Stockton and others worked mines in the county on a large scale. Mr. J. C. Bates, an expert and wealthy miner, has operated mines here for twenty-five years. There are many shafts, no doubt leading to rich fields, that have been abandoned by their owners only because of lack of capital. Rich surface gold is often found,



UNION COUNTY JAIL.

many times farmers pick up pure nuggets in the branches or on the hillsides.

## EDUCATION AND THE SPREAD OF INTELLIGENCE.

The rapid advancement of the cause of education in the county for the past twelve or fifteen years has been marvelous. The educational revival in this county is far ahead of the general one in the State.

Perhaps more boys and girls go to college from this county

in proportion to population than from any other in the State. This is due to the presence of a large number of high schools. The academies at Marshville, Wingate, Waxhaw, Unionville, Weddington and Morgan are fine feeders, besides shedding an influence for progress upon the communities in which they are located. Six of the nine townships of the county have each one or more academies, and in another there has been an excellent one, while in another of these some of the public schools run from eight to ten months in the year. At the county seat, Monroe, there is a splendid graded school system for both white and colored. At Wesley Chapel, in Sandy Ridge township, the people have voted a special tax, erected a \$1500 house, and will maintain a rural graded school—the first in the State. Marshville and Waxhaw are also considering the question of establishing graded schools. All this is in addition to the public schools provided by the State. There are several small free libraries in the county. Four local newspapers are maintained and all have good patronage. Free rural mail routes are being opened up and the whole county is fast becoming a net-work of telephone wires. This is no small factor in the spread of intelligence. Telephone connections with his neighbors and the town is no small comfort and convenience to a farmer. The telephone, the daily mail, the improved school and church facilities are adding an attractiveness to farm life which was undreamed of a few years ago. All these unite in making Union far up towards the head in general intelligence and desirability as a place of residence.

## HISTORICAL.

The territory now embraced by Union county has at different times been a part of New Hanover, Bladen, Anson and Mecklenburg counties. The old line between Mecklenburg and Anson ran some two miles east of Monroe. Thus Union has a part in the history of each—the Anson Regulators and the Mecklenburg signers. At the centennial in Charlotte in 1875 there was present a citizen of Union county who was then considerably over one hundred years of age, and had as a lad been present at the

signing of the famous Declaration on May 20th, 1775. This county has the honor of having given President Andrew Jackson to the nation. Where his parents lived, some miles west of Monroe, is well known, as is also the place of his birth in Jackson township—named for him—in this county. Union county was “erected,” as the statute puts it, in 1842. The magistrates in the territory of the new county were instructed to meet and form a county government, which they did on the first Monday in April, 1843, at La Batt’s crossroads (old Tindel place.)



UNION COUNTY HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM.

There being a dispute between the Whigs and Democrats as to whether the county should be named Clay or Jackson, the word Union was suggested and adopted as a compromise and because the new county was created from parts of two others.

## TOWNS.

Monroe, the capital, is of course the largest town of the county, but there are two others of considerable importance. Marshville, situated, ten miles east of Monroe, is a thriving town of several hundred inhabitants and does a large mercantile business. It has a roller flour mill and a good local newspaper, *Our Home*, which has been run for about 8 years by Mr. J. Z. Greene. Waxhaw, ten miles southeast of Monroe, has a population of 800, and several large mercantile houses which do an extensive business in furnishing a large area of territory. It also has a cotton mill, owned by Rodman & Heath. A good local paper is also published at Waxhaw, edited by Mr. P. T. Way. Both Waxhaw and Marshville are fine cotton markets, and each has a flourishing school. Wingate, six miles east of Monroe, is a thriving village with a splendid high school.



## THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The people of Union county wisely entrust their affairs only in the hands of honest, intelligent and faithful public servants. It is a county in which the people themselves rule. Under the primary system for selecting candidates every successful candidate must run before the people twice before getting his office. And after he gets it he must prove himself honest, efficient and accommodating or his services are dispensed with at the first opportunity. The county officials of Union have always been men who have fully justified the confidence reposed in them by the people.

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### THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.



W. F. MORGAN, CHAIRMAN.

W. F. Morgan, the chairman of the board of county commissioners, is a native of Anson county but moved to Union many years ago. For the past several years he has resided in Monroe. He has served four years as alderman of the city and did so very acceptably. In 1898 he was elected on the board of county commissioners and re-elected in 1906. Mr. Morgan is a Democrat in politics and is very popular with the people. As a commissioner, he is cautious and watchful of the people's interests.

A. J. Brooks is 47 years old, a native of Union county, and a successful farmer. He has been called to fill several positions of honor and trust and always filled them acceptably. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1885 and has held the office ever since. In 1896 he was elected county commissioner and was the only one of the Democratic candidates elected on the board. In 1899 he was appointed as a member of the board of education and elected its chairman. In December,



A. J. BROOKS.



S. E. BELK.

1900, he resigned that office to again take his place on the board of county commissioners, to which he was elected by the people in November. He has served as a member of the Democratic executive committee for 16 years and is a genuine, pure Democrat whose services have always been at the call of his party.

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S. E. Belk was born in Lancaster county, S. C., Dec. 8, 1847. He was raised on the farm and started out at 21 without a dollar. For ten years he

worked at the mill-wright trade with the late William Crow. He is now engaged in farming and running a flouring mill, saw mill and cotton gin on Lane's Creek. Mr. Belk has been remarkably successful in life, and by industry and thrift he has accumulated a considerable estate. In 1898 he was elected a county commissioner and re-elected in 1900. In managing the affairs of the county, Mr. Belk exercises the same prudence and economy that he does in his own affairs.

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B. A. Horn, the popular sheriff of Union county, was born in Lane's Creek township in 1859 and is a son of ex-sheriff J. P. Horn. He was brought up on the farm and followed farming as an occupation until 1884. In that year he became deputy sheriff under his father and held the position for ten years.



SHERIFF B. A. HORN.

In 1892 he was elected chief of police of the city of Monroe and served in that capacity for a short time. So efficiently did he discharge his duties as an officer that, upon the voluntary retirement of his father as sheriff, in 1896, he was chosen by the people as their sheriff. In that year the county was carried by a good majority by the Populists, yet Sheriff Horn was elected as a Democrat by 123 majority. At the next election in 1898 he received a majority of over 1300 and in 1900 there was no candidate against him.

He is popular with all classes of people and no county in the State ever had a better or more capable sheriff than B. A. Horn. He knows his duties and responsi-



bilities and he goes right along attending strictly to his own business and letting every other person's alone. He is a man of few words and runs his office smoothly and without a jar. In the service of process and the conduct of his office he follows the requirements of the law strictly. He collects the taxes promptly and has always made his settlements at the times provided by law.

Sheriff Horn resides in our splendid jail and the apartments occupied by the family are elegantly furnished, the parlor containing both a piano and an organ.

The prisoners all speak in praise of their treatment and say they are well fed and neatly cared for. Our plucky young sheriff is altogether an ideal officer, a superb citizen and a noble hearted man.

E. A. Armfield, clerk of the superior court, is one of our best known men, having been in business in the county for more than 30 years. He completed his education at Trinity College in 1858 and then taught school and worked in a bank at Greens-

boro until 1860, when he moved to Georgia and engaged in farming. He resided in Georgia for 10 years, barring the time he was following the Confederate flag in other States. In 1870 he returned to North Carolina and located in Monroe. He at once went into the mercantile business, in partnership with Mr. A. A. Laney, and continued in that business until 1889. The firm of Armfield & Laney did an immense business and contributed much towards the growth



E. A. ARMFIELD, CLK. SUPERIOR COURT. of Monroe. In 1889 Mr.

Armfield moved to the country and again engaged in farming and dealing in stock. In 1898 Mr. Armfield was elected by a big majority and is making a fine clerk.

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John W. Townsend, deputy clerk of the Superior Court, is a native of Concord, N. C., and a graduate of Trinity College.



J. W. TOWNSEND.

He has resided in Monroe twenty-seven years. He was in the cotton buying business with J. M. Fairley, Esq., for nineteen years and book-keeper for the Heath Hardware Company five years. Mr. Townsend is an expert accountant and cotton buyer. He makes an excellent deputy clerk and is a most excellent gentleman. He is local industrial agent for the S. A. L. Railway and will give information to parties wishing it concerning Monroe. The compilers of these sketches are indebted to Mr. Townsend for valuable assistance and

desire to acknowledge the obligation.

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J. Millen Stewart is the very courteous register of deeds. He was born in the Jackson township—the same in which Andrew Jackson was born—on October 28th, 1843. He possesses many of the admirable traits of character exemplified in the life of “Old Hickory.” He has made Monroe his home

for many years and has served ten or twelve years as alderman

of the city. He has always led an active business life and enjoys the confidence of everybody who knows him. In 1898 he was elected as a Democrat to the office of register of deeds by nearly 1300 majority, wresting the office from a Populist. He is serving his second term with great satisfaction to the people of the county.

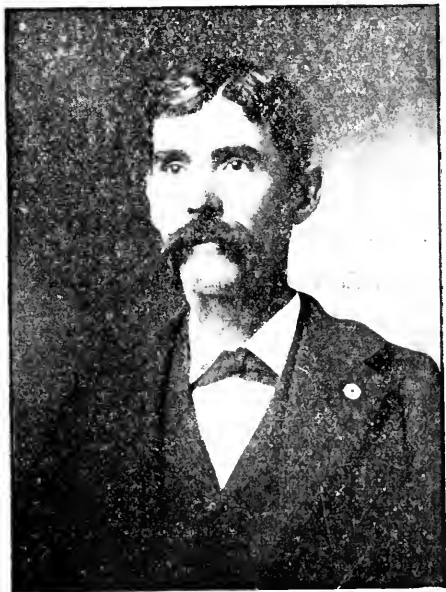


J. M. STEWART, REG. OF DEEDS

miles east of Monroe, on the 7th of May, 1858, and staid on his farm until he was elected treasurer in 1900, when he moved to Monroe. Mr. Williams is a Democrat in politics, and has rendered long and faithful service to his party. His name is a synonym for honesty, and the people know their money is safe as long as he holds the public purse. Mr. Williams is a gentleman of courteous bearing

James H. Williams, treasurer of Union county, is a farmer by occupation.

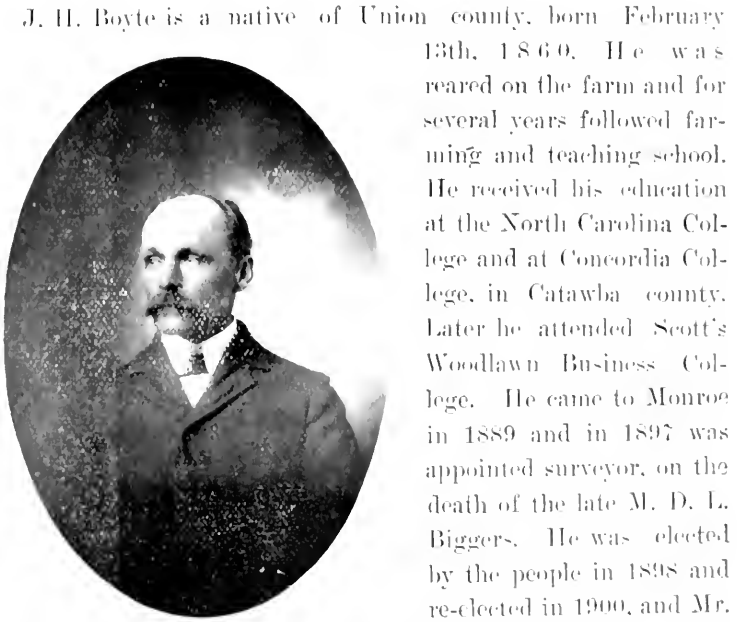
He was born about 5



JAMES H. WILLIAMS, TREASURER

and has given the people entire satisfaction. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, a consistent member of the Baptist church and one of our very best men.

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J. H. BOYTE.

rate and very satisfactory surveyor.

J. H. Boyte is a native of Union county, born February 13th, 1860. He was reared on the farm and for several years followed farming and teaching school. He received his education at the North Carolina College and at Concordia College, in Catawba county. Later he attended Scott's Woodlawn Business College. He came to Monroe in 1889 and in 1897 was appointed surveyor, on the death of the late M. D. L. Biggers. He was elected by the people in 1898 and re-elected in 1900, and Mr. Boyte has made an accu-

ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

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One of the objects of pride with the people of this vicinity is the work which is being done for the improvement of the public highways. For six years we have had a convict force, ranging from twenty to sixty hands, constantly at work in opening new roads or straightening old ones and grading, and to some extent rocking. All the main highways leading from the town are graded to a greater or less distance, and the total number of miles graded is now between thirty-five and forty. An immense amount of work has been done. It has been necessary to make a great many very large fills and deep cuts, and the grades now attained will be permanent. Soon there will be the finest opportunity for macadamizing. Something has already been done in this line. It is the policy of the commissioners to improve the worst sections as they go along. It should be remembered that only about four months in the year is the weather such as to make roads bad, and with the leveling and grading that is being done, we already have, for six to eight months in the year, as good roads as are to be found in the United States. The beds are constructed not less than twenty-four nor more than thirty-four feet in width, oval in shape and thoroughly packed, and so present a beautiful sight. Their width will allow plenty of room for two tracks, one the natural bed, which can be used from six to eight months in the year, and one for macadam, for bad weather, stock preferring to avoid macadam when the dirt sections of the road are good. The convicts, many of whom came from other counties with sentences from thirty days to five years, are well-kept, and their comfort amply looked after. They are only required to work faithfully and behave themselves. The system has not only been of vast benefit in road improvement but in the saving of costs in jail maintenance and in deterring

criminals who have no dread of jail imprisonment. The commissioners personally direct the operations of the force, through their excellent superintendent, Mr. B. T. Fletcher. The origin and progress of the work may not be uninteresting:

"It is ordered by the Board that Chapter 194, Acts of the General Assembly of 1895, entitled 'an Act for the improvement of the public roads of North Carolina,' ratified the 11th of March, 1895, be adopted and accepted for the county of Union, and all



CHAIN-GANG AT WORK.

of its provisions made applicable to said county, and said chapter, with all its provisions are hereby ordered and declared to be of full force and authority in said county of Union from and after the date of its adoption. The Board finds as a fact that the revenue of the county for ordinary purposes, and within the

limitations prescribed by the Constitution, is insufficient to meet the necessary expenses of constructing, repairing and improving the public roads of the county, and that to meet said tax it is necessary to levy a special tax for the purpose on the taxable polls and property of the county not exempt from taxation."

This order established the chain-gang of Union county, and on the meeting in June when other taxes were levied a special



GRADED ROAD AND \$3,000 IRON BRIDGE

tax of fifteen cents on the \$100 worth of property and forty-five cents on polls was levied to support it. In the following August petitions were presented asking the Board to rescind its order levying the road taxes, but it refused, dismissed the petition, and ordered the tax collected. At this meeting, Mr. R. B. Redwine, who had done so much to bring about the result which had thus been accomplished, resigned, and Mr. J. M. Fairley, one of the

present road commissioners, succeeded him. Mr. Fairley leading, the Board took up with much energy the work which has proven so satisfactory to the people of the county. A five ton reversible road roller, a Buckeye Reversible road machine, five scrapers, a road plow, and a rooter plow, were purchased. The convicts were put to work under the direction of Mr. Jos. Howie, and in September of the same year Capt. W. L. Howie was elected to the position of superintendent, and for several years gave the most faithful service.

The legislature of 1897 passed a special act, drawn by Mr. R.



ONE OF UNION COUNTY'S GRADED ROADS.

B. Redwine, confining the operations of the chain gang to Monroe township and levying a tax in this township of 25 cents on property and 15 cents on poll. The same act ordered the county commissioners to levy 15 cents on property and 45 cents on poll in all the other townships, all funds to be kept separately and used by the township in which they were collected. This latter



## GOLD IN UNION COUNTY.

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BY JNO. C. BATES.

Before the discovery of gold in California the Government obtained the yellow metal for coining purposes from the Southern States, and North Carolina produced its full proportion. Gold was discovered in these states at a very early date in our history, even before the Revolutionary war, and gold mining has been prosecuted with more or less energy for about 150 years.

From 1832 to 1837 there was quite a boom in mining in the Southern gold fields, and considerable capital from the North and from England was invested in mining enterprises south of the "Mason & Dixon Line." In 1857 there was another boom that continued up to the breaking out of the Civil War. Since the close of the war mining in the Southern States has been spasmodic, and the result generally has not been satisfactory.

Mecklenburg county, of which Union was a part until 1843, has been known for more than a century to be rich in gold. The territory now within the limits of Union county has its full share of the precious metal, and will rank favorably with any county in the State for its mineral wealth. There are many mines in the county that with the improved methods of mining and for extracting the gold can be made to pay handsomely on the capital necessary to develop them.

The failures in mining in the South have not been because the gold is not here, but from a lack of improved methods and other causes understood by mining men.



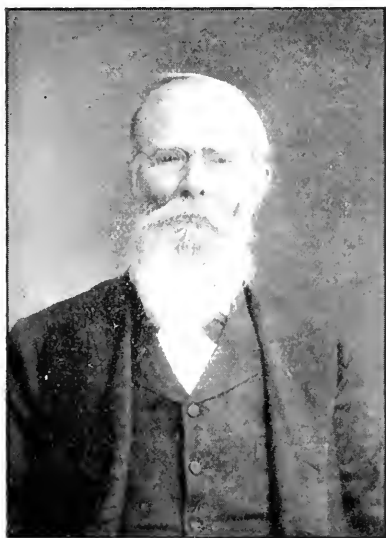
RESIDENCE OF T. J. GORDON.

The above is a country home of Union county, situated six miles west of town; the owner is Mr. T. J. Gordon. He began life fifteen years ago on twenty acres of land received from his father's estate. He now owns twelve hundred acres, runs fifteen plows, and lives in comfort in the fine home pictured above. He has farmed exclusively, and his success shows what may be done on a Union county farm with brains and energy. He grows cotton, corn, grain and peas, and pays special attention to clover. He is public spirited, and a leader in anything beneficial to his community.

## DR. T. W. REDWINE.

Among the honored citizens of Union county none stand higher than Dr. T. W. Redwine. Born in Davidson county, N. C., April 18th, 1827, he attended the best schools afforded by that county. He read medicine at Mt. Pleasant, N. C., under Drs. Smith and Stedman. He located at Samuel Howie's, in the western part of the county, and began the practice of medicine in September, 1846, and was in active practice for 53 years. When the war broke out he volunteered and went to the front. In September, 1861, he was elected captain of Company F, 35th Regiment. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1875 and represented Union with great credit to himself and his constituents. In 1880 he was elected presi-

dent of the Union County Medical Society. In 1848 he married Miss Mary A. Clark and they were blessed with several children, one of them being Mr. R. B. Redwine, of the Monroe bar. Dr. Redwine is a quiet, unassuming gentleman of the old school and his aim in life has been to make an honorable and useful physician and a good citizen. In that aim his every aspiration has been realized. In his declining years he has the conscious knowledge of a life well spent, and that he possesses the

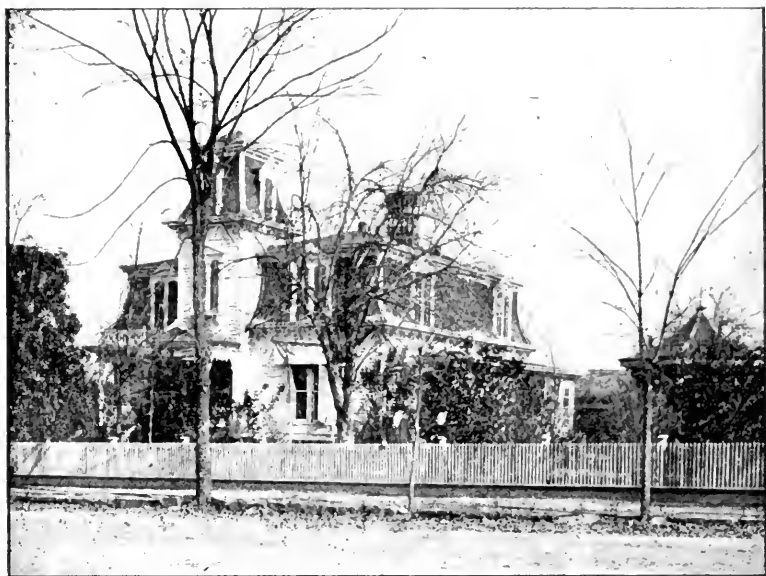


DR. T. W. REDWINE.

love and esteem of his neighbors.

## MONROE.

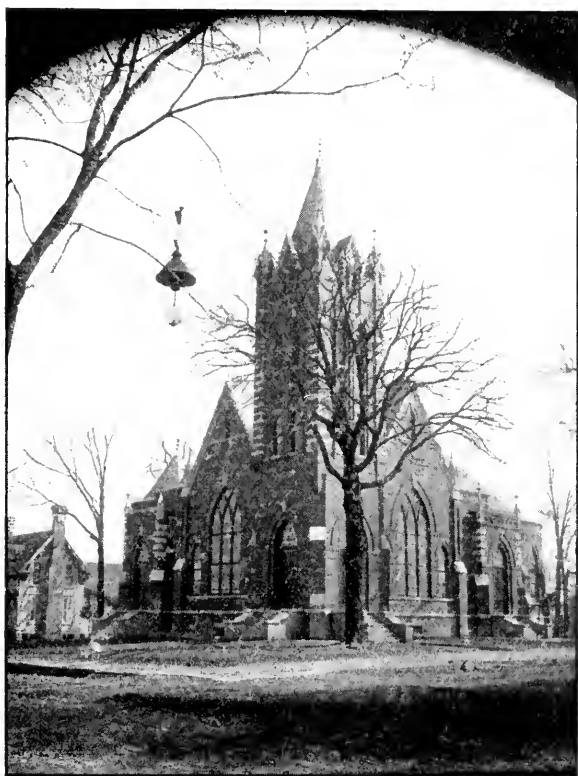
In the steady progress of the New South the thriving town of Monroe, the county seat of Union county, is bearing its full part. The site for the town was selected in 1844. The commissioners to locate the county seat being instructed to find the



RESIDENCE OF MRS. E. E. FITZGERALD.

centre of the county and to select a place for the court house within at least two miles of the central point, first chose High Hill, two miles north of here, but not being able to obtain land there, selected the point on which the town now stands. The name of President James Monroe was given to the new county

seat. The growth of the town has never been by jerks; it has been slow, but what has been achieved is permanent and substantial. The population inside of the incorporate lines, which



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

are not much extended, is 2,500, and that of the suburbs being added, the whole is about 4,000.

### BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE.

The town has never had any large capitalists to develop her resources and her achievements of a progressive nature have

come by the united action of her citizens. In this way a foundry and machine shop were built a number of years ago; also a cotton mill, an oil mill and a roller flour mill have been erected the same way. The people are ready to unite in any promising enterprise with any parties who wish to cast their lots with them. Merchandising has been the principle occupation, owing to the large trade area which the town has been able to



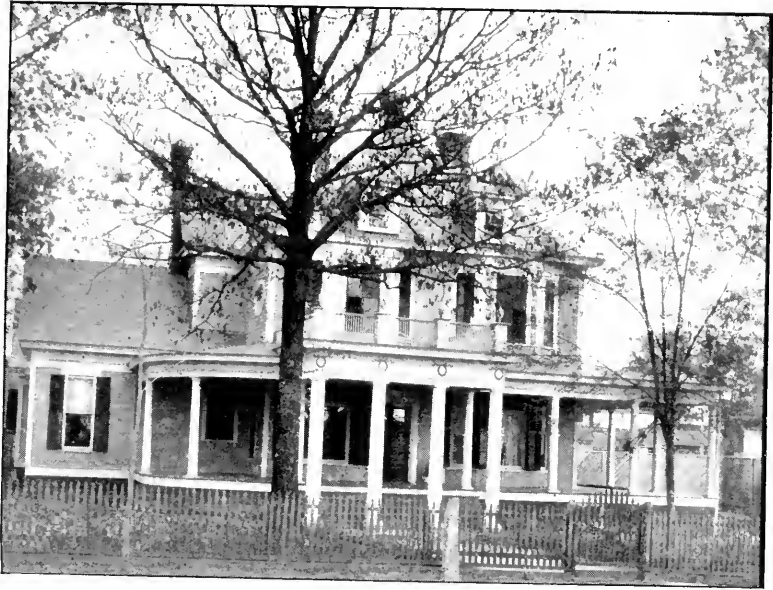
RESIDENCE OF T. P. DILLON.

supply. For years a large wagon trade has come here, not only from this and surrounding counties, but from South Carolina. With better railroad facilities the jobbing trade has been growing and Monroe is certain to become a fine distributing point in the near future. The people are also turning their attention to manufacturing, and with the beginning already made, are in a position to go forward. Splendid manufacturing sites may be

had at very low figures, and the people and the municipality are ready to offer all inducements and co-operation to promoters of any manufacturing enterprises. Furniture manufacturing would be a fine business here, owing to the proximity of the hard wood.

### TRANSPORTATION.

Monroe is finely situated on the Seaboard Air Line, at the junction of the Georgia, Carolina and Northern with the Caro-

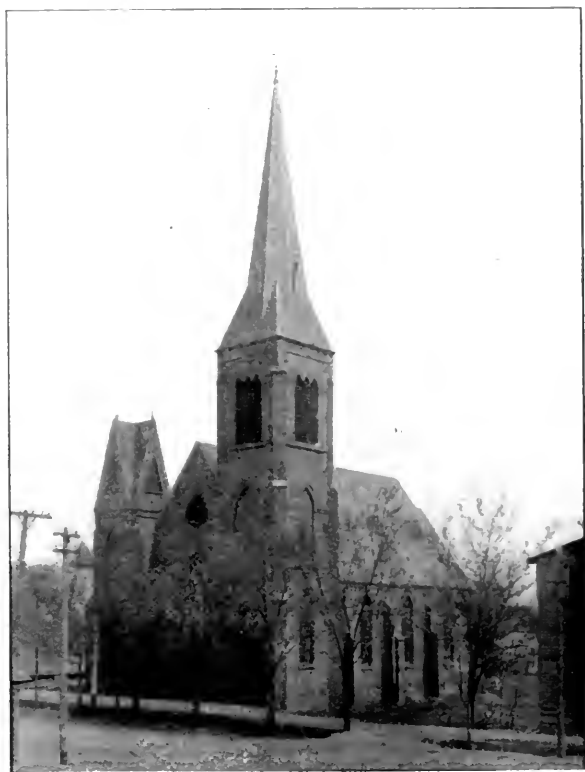


RESIDENCE OF DR. J. M. BLAIR.

lina Central, thus having outlets in three directions. At no distant date another road will reach here. This is the one from McBee, S. C., to Jefferson. When this reaches Monroe, its objective point, another fine trade section will be opened up.

## HEALTH.

There can possibly be no more healthful town than Monroe. Added to the attractions of climate, described elsewhere, is the wholesomeness of the artesian water, with which the town has supplied itself. The wells are nearly one thousand feet deep.



BAPTIST CHURCH.

The water is pure, soft and delightful. This has had a marked effect upon the health of the people. Official statistics show that only eighteen deaths occurred in town from all causes in 1900, and only thirteen in 1901. This was among the whole population, white and colored, and from all causes, not even excepting



old age and infantile diseases. There has not been a death from fever in three years, and none from consumption among whites in the same length of time. Can any other place show so fine a record?

### SCHOOL AND CHURCHES.

The wisdom of the people in voting to establish a graded school is being amply demonstrated. Schools and churches go arm in arm in their influence for the upbuilding of communi-



RESIDENCE OF CAPT. C. L. YOUNGBLOOD.

ties. In the matter of churches, Monroe is far ahead of many larger towns. The Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Lutheran denominations all have nice church buildings. The new buildings of the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations are a credit, not only to these congregations, but to the

whole town. They are models of modern church architecture. Monroe people are a church-going folk and they take great pride in their church work.

### FRATERNAL ORDERS.

The Masons, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World,



RESIDENCE OF T. J. SHANNON.

Royal Arcanum, Odd Fellows and Heptasophs all have large organizations.

### TOWN OWNS WATER AND LIGHT PLANTS.

Monroe owns its own water and light plants. Its water is spoken of at length elsewhere. Water and lights are furnished residents at a minimum cost. The fine electric light plant has

given entire satisfaction since its inauguration, and the streets are thoroughly lighted. The power which runs the pumps in the wells and the force pumps which are used instead of a standing pipe also runs the dynamos. The fire department, though volunteer, is very efficient. In recent fires the men have done work that would have been creditable to city firemen. Dr. S. J. Welsh is chief of the department; Davis Armfield, assistant chief; Dr. W. B. Houston,



METHODIST CHURCH.

foreman; J. F. Correll and A. W. Boyte, assistant foremen; John Fullenwider, secretary; J. S. B. Hart, treasurer; J. F. Correll and J. W. Davis, engineers.

### HOMES AND LIVING.

A very large per cent of the residents of Monroe own their own homes. Home building is comparatively easy here. Lots

are cheap, and men unable to build without aid can easily find help in the Monroe Building & Loan Association, spoken of elsewhere, or from other sources. What more does one of moderate income want than a home in such a town as Monroe? Healthfulness is incomparable; living is cheap; houses easily obtained; school and church facilities unsurpassed. There is no



AT THE COTTON PLATFORM.

rowdiness nor law breaking. There are no saloons, and parents are assured that nowhere will they find more favorable surroundings amid which to locate their homes and rear their children. There are handsome, modern dwellings here, cozy homes and modest little cottages, and one can find something to suit both taste and purse, to buy, build or rent.

## SUMMARY.

Summarizing the things that have been said, Monroe and Union county offer to the capitalist and manufacturer good opportunities for investment and development, cheap land, cheap labor, cheap material at first hand, and co-operation in enterprise; to home-seekers they offer an ideal situation; to the weak they offer healthful conditions; to farmers seeking better climate



RESIDENCE OF R. F. BEASLEY.

they offer soil and climate that produce anything known to the temperate zone; to all they offer a hearty welcome and a helping hand. In this book is told of many of the things we have here. Many of those who have helped to make the town and occupy places of trust, respect and usefulness, are also spoken of in these pages.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Monroe has an active Chamber of Commerce, of which Mr. W. S. Lee, one of our most enterprising business men, is president, Mr. J. E. Clark secretary, and Frank Armfield, Esq.,



EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

secretary-treasurer. The officers will gladly furnish any information regarding the town or county.

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 MONROE'S ARTESIAN WATER.

Not the least among the attractions of Monroe is its unexcelled artesian water. It is not a panacea for *every* ill that afflicts humanity. It is not the "Fountain of Life" for which thousands

have so eagerly sought for centuries—a certain shield for “all the evils that wait on mortal life, from pain and death forever;” but it is a most excellent remedy for indigestion, dyspepsia, all kinds of gastric and kidney troubles, rheumatism, lassitude, debility from overwork, that “tired feeling” that comes upon one when the season is changing from snow and ice into the balmy sunshine and gentle breezes of spring; in fact, were we to state in this article how many cures have been made by this



RESIDENCE OF J. E. STACK.

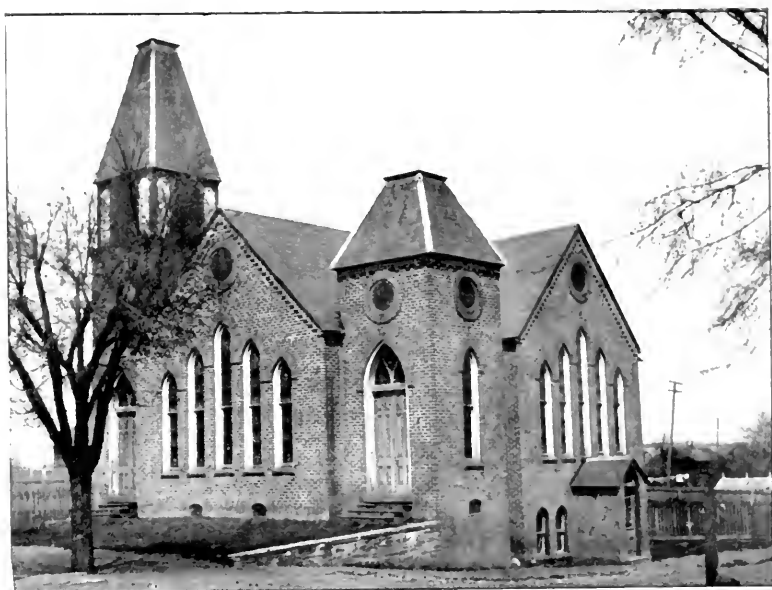
water in the last two years, since it began to be used, it would sound like fiction or a tale from the Arabian Nights.

Distilled and compounded in Nature's own laboratory, more than one thousand feet beneath the earth's surface, it is far beyond the reach of baccilli or fever germs, and there is no recorded case of typhoid fever in our city since this water came

into general use, except in cases where they continued to use common well water. As it gurgles up from the fountain depths in two streams of 1028 and 968 feet deep, through solid slate rock, it bursts into the cistern and water mains, limpid and sparkling, clear as crystal and almost absolutely pure.

The official analysis, made by the State Chemist, is as follows:

Total solid matter in solution, 11.9 grains per U. S. gal.



LUTHERAN CHURCH.

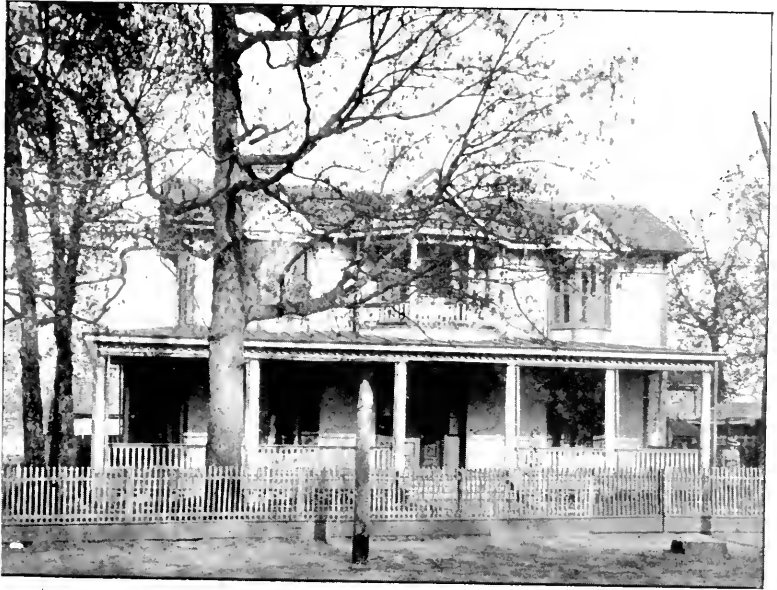
Total solids consist of: Calcium bicarbonate, 7.17 grains per U. S. gal; sodium chloride, 1.98 grains per U. S. gal; organic matter, soluble silica, magnesium sulphate, 2.45; iron bicarbonate, free carbonic acid gas, .36 cubic inches per gal.; no sulphur present as gas.

By this analysis is shown that the Monroe Artesian water is unsurpassed by any other in North Carolina, or as to that, in the South.



The city fathers have erected a nice pavilion, hard by the well, where all who choose can go at any time of the day or night and drink the water as it comes from the well, and thus obtain all the benefits that it gives. The water is better at the well than from the mains, as some of the healthful gases escape before it gets from the cistern into the water pipes and to the houses.

Knowing the great value of this water, we cannot see any peculiar reason why parties from the malarial sections should go further up the country to spend the summer, and endure hard



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. W. NEAL.

beds and rough fare of some watering places when they could come here and enjoy all the comforts of home in Monroe's excellent private houses and first class hotels. Monroe is high enough above the sea level to be free from malaria—the climate is delightful—very few sultry days in summer and not many ex-

cessively cold ones in the winter—good graded roads running in various directions, affording lovely drives—splendid livery accommodations—fine churches—good music—hospitable and clever people, who will extend a genuine, old-fashioned Southern hospitality to all who come in their midst. We might say much more in this article, but we do not consider it necessary, as we



RESIDENCE OF A. M. STACK.

*know* if you come to Monroe once, you will be a constant visitor thereafter. We are willing to let the following testimonials concerning the water speak for themselves:

DR. ASHCRAFT'S STATEMENT.

Having practiced medicine in Monroe for a number of years, I have had ample opportunity to observe the health and prevailing diseases of the town. Prior to the use of the Monroe

Artesian water, the town was visited almost every year by an epidemic of that dreaded disease, typhoid fever. Since the town has been supplied with this pure water, typhoid fever is unknown to us, except now and then an isolated case, where the water has not been used.

The Monroe Artesian wells range from 700 to 1000 feet deep and are cased from top to bottom, making it impossible for fever-producing germs to find their way into the water. Almost every epidemic of typhoid fever implies a contaminated water supply. Besides eliminating typhoid fever from the town, it exerts a most beneficial influence in uric acid diathesis. The Monroe Artesian water is a wonderful patent remedy in gouty and rheumatic conditions. This water exerts a stimulant effect upon the kidneys, and thereby aids the swift removal of insoluble material from the system. The Monroe Artesian water corrects those digestive failures which are responsible for the production of so many toxic materials of the body. J. E. ASHCRAFT.

(Dr. Ashcraft is one of the most successful practitioners in North Carolina. He is now in New York doing special work.)

#### PRAISE FROM A HIGH SOURCE.

Southwestern Presbyterian University, Department of Chemistry, S. R. McKee, Ph. D.

Clarksville, Tenn., January 15, 1902.

Hon. R. L. Stevens, Mayor of Monroe.

Dear Sir: While in North Carolina during the past summer I had the opportunity to use Monroe artesian water in my family. After a trial of nearly three months with members of the family of different ages, I pronounce it a most excellent water. Its action in cases of impaired digestion, I think, is very fine; and I predict for it a very extensive use when people become acquainted with its beneficial effects.

Very truly yours,

S. R. MCKEE.

#### FROM SOLICITOR ROBINSON.

This is to certify that soon after becoming convalescent from a ten weeks' confinement to my bed with inflammatory rheumatism, I drank the artesian water of Monroe, N. C., for one week

and received great benefit from it. I cheerfully recommend it to all rheumatics. In my opinion it is very fine water.

L. D. ROBINSON.

FROM A WELL KNOWN INSURANCE MAN.

Charlotte, N. C., June 16.

Gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to say a word in praise of your splendid water. I have been much benefitted by the use of same—not only in cases of general debility, but repeatedly in cases of indigestion. I have always gained in flesh after a stay of a few days in your pleasant town. The water is pure, soft and sweet. The “quaff” is heightened in pleasure because of the knowledge that good is to follow the drinking.

Very truly,

P. B. MAVS.

ENTIRELY CURED MR. MORRIS.

Raleigh, N. C., May 9, 1902.

To Messrs. Stack & Beasley:

I have been drinking Monroe artesian water about six weeks and it has entirely cured me of dyspepsia. I have been rail-roading in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina for twenty-two years and I pronounce the Monroe artesian water the best that I have ever used and cheerfully recommend it to all who may be suffering from indigestion and kidney troubles.

J. S. MORRIS,

Engineer S. A. L. Railway.

USES NO OTHER WATER.

Charlotte, N. C., May 10, 1902.

To whom it may concern:

This is to state that I have been using the Monroe artesian water for more than two years and take pleasure in saying it is the finest water I have ever used. I use no other water for drinking purposes in my family except from the artesian well at Monroe and have not taken a half dozen drinks of any other kind in over two years. It is absolutely pure.

H. T. ROLLINS,

U. S. Ry. Postal Clerk from Monroe to Rutherfordton.

## TESTIMONIALS.

Hon. O. H. Allen, Judge of Fifth Judicial District of North Carolina, Kinston, N. C., writes that he received substantial benefit from drinking the Monroe artesian water while holding two courts in this city.

\* \* \* \*

Rev. S. B. Turrentine, D. D., of the Western North Carolina Conference, testifies to its healthful properties and states that he considers it a most excellent water, especially adapted to persons who are run down and debilitated by overwork or who suffer with any kind of gastric troubles.

\* \* \* \*

Hon. T. A. McNeill, Judge of the Seventh Judicial District of North Carolina, Lumberton, N. C., says: "The people of Monroe should get upon their knees every night and thank Almighty God for blessing them with such incomparably fine water," that no place he has visited has such pure and delightful, health-giving water.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. J. J. Moody, of this city, an ex-Confederate soldier, bearing in his body the baneful effects of exposure in camp and field during those dreadful years of war, also the numerous wounds received in battle, has for years been almost a physical wreck, unable to work, sometimes almost too feeble to walk around, and in consequence his digestive organs completely out of gear so that he could eat nothing, only the lightest kind of food, and then suffered almost death from indigestion and dyspepsia. About two years ago he began drinking the artesian water, drank it freely and daily. He soon began to grow stronger, his strength increased, his dyspepsia disappeared, he became able to eat any kind of food without detriment, his lassitude and debility left him and today he is strong and healthy as he was in the hey day of his young manhood and says that Monroe artesian water did it all. If any one doubts this statement, let him write J. J. Moody, Monroe, N. C., for verification of the same.

\* \* \* \*

A lady of Wilmington, N. C., was in an exceedingly bad state of health—could scarcely sit up and could eat nothing

except the very lightest diet—was wasted away to almost a shadow. She came to Monroe, drank freely of the artesian water, and in a little over one month's time had gained about twenty pounds in flesh and was restored to her pristine health.

\* \* \* \*

We could give scores of cases similar to these, but do not deem it necessary—a trial of the water will convince the most skeptical of its merits.

\* \* \* \*

The State Sanitary Chemist, after an examination of water of various towns and cities says: "Monroe has the *finest* water in the State."

#### A CARD FROM PROF. BLAIR.

This is to state that I have been using the Monroe artesian water for only three weeks, yet I feel like a new man. I have for a long time been troubled with costiveness and compelled to take pills regularly, but since I began to use this water I have had no further trouble. I am a native of Boston and have traveled over most of the Northern and Western States and I have never seen any water that could compare with the Monroe artesian water. Besides its curative properties, it is perfectly pure. It will compare with distilled water in purity.

JOHN BLAIR,

Music Director.

#### CURED INDIGESTION.

I hereby certify that I found the Monroe, N. C., mineral water very beneficial in a severe case of indigestion.

MRS. W. H. SHAW,

322 N. 3rd St., Wilmington, N. C.

#### USED IT FOUR YEARS.

I gladly testify to the merits of the well of water known as "Artesian" water of Monroe, N. C., drinking it exclusively for four years. I have been suffering with indigestion and could not eat solid food and since using the water have been greatly benefited. I consider it the best water to be found anywhere.

Respectfully,

MRS. J. F. WHISHART.

## ACTS LIKE A TONIC.

Charlotte, N. C., May 16, 1902.

Messrs. Stack &amp; Beasley:

It gives me pleasure to say that I have been using the Monroe artesian water for some time and pronounce it a splendid water. It is good for the kidneys and for indigestion and acts like a



MONROE'S FIRE COMPANY.

tonic in building up the system. It only needs to be known in order to attract people to your splendid young city to live.

GEO. G. SHANNONHOUSE,  
Conductor on Atlanta Special.

# ANOTHER THING.....

ABOUT

## MOROE LITHIA WATER---

The excellency of its purity and properties is already established. The sick and feeble, the well and hearty are benefitted by its use. If sick it helps you; if well it keeps you so. For dyspepsia and indigestion and all forms of kidney and liver ailments it is an invaluable remedy. Whether sick or well, you could not do a wiser thing than try it. We make a specialty of supplying this famous water, carbonated and plain, for drinking purposes.

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### WE USE IT

exclusively in everything we bottle. Our ales and soda waters are as good as the very best, because we use only the best materials and are very particular that *cleanliness* is used extravagantly. They cost no more than the common kinds and are far superior. Our specialties are ginger ale and carbonated water, put up in 5-cent bottles. They are made to please the customer—in quality and in price—and they don't disappoint.

For prices and further information, address

MONROE BOTTLING WORKS.,

Monroe, N. C.



## THE FOUNTAIN ON THE SQUARE.

'Tis but rarely in the hurry  
 And the rivalry and worry  
 Of hard work that I may wander, seeking pure fresh woodland air,  
 So when life brims o'er with trouble  
 Or success seems but a bubble,  
 Oft I ramble to the fountain that is gurgling on the square—  
 To the calm and stately fountain,  
 To the spirit-resting fountain,  
 To the patience-teaching fountain that is gurgling on the square.

When at night, sleep flies my pillow,  
 Thought, upborne on every billow  
 That comes surging, surging, surging, from a mighty sea of care  
 With its helmsman, will, contending,  
 Wildly roams till night's drear ending,  
 If I do not seek the music of the fountain on the square—  
 Seek the drowsy, soothing music,  
 Seek the lulling, measured music,  
 Seek the slumber-tempting music of the fountain on the square.

When my soul lies sick with sorrow,  
 And its grief seems but to borrow  
 Vigor from the dragging moments, while approaching stalks de-  
 spair  
 From Contrition's tear-stained ashes,  
 From Remorse's fearful lashes  
 Flee I soon to hear the laughter of the fountain on the square  
 Hear the calmly rippling laughter,  
 Hear the softly gurgling laughter,  
 Hear the gently-gloating laughter of the fountain on the square  
 —FRANK ARMEFIELD.

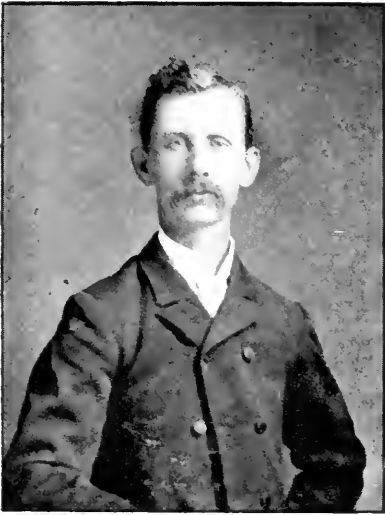


## THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN.

### OFFICIALS.

Alderman L. R. Helms is a member of the firm of L. R. Helms & Co., doing a general grocery business. He lived on his farm until 1884, when he began teaching school and taught for several years. In 1889

he engaged in the drug business in Monroe. In 1892 he began the present business, on the corner of Windsor and Lafayette streets and has built up a nice trade. He is attentive to business, public or private, and is as honest as Cato. Many matters of responsibility and trust have been committed to him and in every instance his conduct has been according to the letter of the law. In May, 1901, Mr. Helms was elected an alderman of the city and has made a conscientious pub-



L. R. HELMS.

lie servant. He is the kind of man that elevates the public service.

James D. McRae was born in Anson county, North Carolina, November sixteenth, 1858. He moved to Mon-



J. D. McRAE.

he was elected without opposition. Mr. McRae is a very successful businessman and a most agreeable gentleman.

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S. W. Parham was born in Henderson, N. C., Jan. 13, 1856. He has been in the railroad service since 1875 and connected all that time with the S. A. L. and its predecessors. He has lost but one month's time during the 27 years. Capt.



S. W. PARHAM.

roo in 1881 and has since made it his home. For several years he worked with the old and reliable house of A. H. Crowell & Son. In 1894 he engaged in the mercantile business with Mr. T. C. Collins and continued with him until September, 1901. That business was merged in the "McRae Mercantile Co." later on. Mr. McRae is serving his third term as city alderman. Twice before he was elected by large majorities and the last time all parties united on him and

Parham came to Monroe in 1890, purchased property and will likely make his residence here permanent. He was first elected an alderman in 1894 and was re-elected and served until 1898. In 1901 he was persuaded to run again and was elected by the largest majority of any one on the ticket except Mr. McRae, who had no opposition. Capt. Parham is on the board of trustees of the Graded School and an active church man, and his influence is always for the good of the community.

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George S. Lee is a South Carolinian by birth and was reared on the farm. He followed farming until he



GEORGE S. LEE.

came to Monroe in 1880 to become a salesman for Marsh & Lee. He worked for that firm until 1886, when he opened up a clothing store. In 1896 he joined his brother, James H. Lee in the large dry goods house of Lee & Lee, mention of which will be found elsewhere in these sketches. In May, 1901, Mr. Lee was elected alderman from the fourth ward and is one of the most popular officials the city ever had. In his public and private life

Mr. Lee is one of the purest and best of men.

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Dr. John M. Blair was born in Chesterfield county, S. C., April 3rd, 1864. He was educated at the South Carolina Military Academy, at Charleston, and the Greenville (S. C.) Mili-

tary Institute. He read medicine at Charleston and graduated at the medical college in Louisville. He



DR. J. M. BLAIR.

first located at Dudley, S. C., and after practicing there one year, located in Monroe. He is now county physician, local surgeon of the S. A. L. Railway, and enjoys a good practice. As a surgeon he stands very high. He is now serving his third term as alderman, having been elected in 1901 as alderman at large for the city. Dr. Blair is an attractive conversationalist, a most companionable gentleman and an all-round, jam-up, good fellow.

## SEABOARD AIR LINE.

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 "THE CAPITAL CITY ROUTE."

With double daily solid vestibuled trains between the North and South. Quickest and most convenient route to Florida. Also two splendid trains daily between Monroe, Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh, Portsmouth, Richmond, Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

ATLANTA SPECIAL, daily. Pullman sleeping cars between Portsmouth, Norfolk and Atlanta.

SEABOARD FAST MAIL, daily. From New York, connecting with Federal Express from Boston.

Another LIMITED TRAIN to Pinchurst, Camden, Florida, Cuba and Atlanta.

SUMMER TOURISTS' TICKETS on sale at all coupon ticket offices, at low rates, and providing stop-over privileges not offered by any other line, with option of diverse route returning to Portsmouth, Norfolk or Richmond.

SUMMER HOMES FOLDER and other attractive and useful illustrated literature, together with valuable information furnished free upon application.

THE SCHEDULES are fine and time quick. A person, after taking supper in Monroe, can go to either Richmond, Portsmouth, Atlanta or Columbia and get there for breakfast the next morning.

The service is fine, road bed smooth and train officials careful, polite and genteel, thus assuring to travelers pleasant journeys, assured of safety.

H. S. LEARD, T. P. A.,

JAMES M. BARR, 1st Vice-Pres. & Gen. Mgr., Raleigh, N. C.  
Portsmouth, Va.

General Offices are at Portsmouth, Va.

## THE S. A. L. ROUTES AND DESTINATIONS.

The Seaboard Air Line passes through one of the most fertile sections of the fair Southland, from Virginia through the two Carolinas and Georgia into Florida, the land of perpetual Spring, the Eldorado of the health and pleasure seekers. Along its borders are all kinds of climate, where grow the grains and



THE SEABOARD AIR LINE YARDS AT MONROE.

fruits of the northern section, the golden tobacco, the waving fields of wheat and oats, the fleecy cotton, the luscious peach, the juicy apple, the seductive grape, and the toothsome "water-millyon," and further South the tropical fruits—the banana, pineapple, guava, and cocoanut.

The section immediately around and adjacent to Monroe is very healthful, free from malaria and moderately fertile. The



land produces wheat, oats, corn, peas and grasses in abundance. When well cultivated, cotton also yields gratifying harvests to those who use freely of commercial fertilizers or stable manure. And the grade of the cotton is the finest of short staple cotton in the world—a great deal of it grading fair and middling fair. (Cotton men will understand what this is.) Fruits succeed well, especially apples, strawberries and grapes. It is a good section for raising stock, as clover and nutritious grasses grow luxuriantly when proper attention is paid to them. It is a good section for the erection of wood-working plants, for we have an abundance of the finest kind of hickory, oak and pine timber right at our doors; also a good deal of poplar and some walnut. Lands are cheap, and good farms near enough the city to be convenient for market can be bought at from \$6 to \$20 per acre, the price ranging according to locality, amount of timber, improvements, etc.

The citizens of this section welcome all new comers who wish to settle in our midst for the purpose of making a living and helping to build up and beautify this garden spot of the Piedmont section. The city of Monroe is the healthiest place in the State and has the best water in the South, and offers inducements for capitalists who wish to erect industrial plants of any kind, and her citizens will not hesitate to put their capital into business with other parties from other sections, North, East or West, who wish to locate in her borders. Any further or specific information desired about the soil, climate, timbers, water-powers, minerals, lands, etc., will be cheerfully furnished by

J. W. TOWNSEND,

S. W. PARHAM,

Local Industrial Agent, S. A. L.

Station Agt. S. A. L.

MONROE, N. C.

## NORTH MONROE.

As an illustration of the material growth of the city, we would call attention to the suburb known as North Monroe. In 1890, six gentlemen, J. M. Fairley and J. W. Townsend, of Monroe; O. W. Carr and S. S. Brown, of Greensboro; Fred C. Beard and Major L. A. Burke, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, purchased of the late Thos. D. Winchester one hundred acres of land, adjoining the northern corporate limits of the city, platted about 10 acres, graded streets, set out shade trees, and in October of that year had an auction sale at which time one hundred and ten building lots were sold, and the work of erecting residences was begun. At the present time there are upwards of one hundred comfortable homes with a population of five hundred or six hundred people, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, and a contented, happy and prosperous citizenship.

Thus the march of civilization advances, and where only a few short years ago was an old pine field with naught but wild flowers and grasses and no sounds but the sighing of the wind among the pines, and at night the hooting of owls and croak of frogs and chirping of crickets, are now heard the happy voices of childhood and the drowsy hum of contented householders as they enjoy the hours of rest beneath their own "vine and fig-tree" after a day of labor in the cotton mill or railroad yard or on the neighboring farms. In this healthy suburb persons can obtain building lots on reasonable and easy terms and build homes, thus becoming permanent citizens, freed from the burden of rent paying, and more prosperous and self-respecting on account of the proprietorship of their own modest cottage.

## MONROE GRADED SCHOOL.

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 BY PROF. E. C. BROOKS.

The Monroe Graded Schools were organized in June, 1900. This was the third attempt and the interest manifested in the opening of the schools showed that all, even those who were opposed to the extra tax, were prepared to give the new institution the good will of the town and to go to any reasonable expense that every feature might be as strong as possible. The men who have served as members of the Board—Messrs. H. B. Adams, R. A. Morrow, W. S. Lee, S. J. Welsh, S. W. Parham, J. C. Fletcher, A. M. Crowell and S. O. Blair are all strong bus-

ness men, and they have administered the affairs of the graded school with the same intelligence that they would have given the business of a private corporation. At the end of the first year they realized that the salaries paid the teachers were not sufficient to retain or secure the best teachers in the State; and with their characteristic liberality they immediately raised the salaries of all the teachers, and at the same time passed an accompanying resolution that for the future no teacher would be selected who has not had normal



PROF. E. C. BROOKS.

training or who has not had at least two years experience in graded school work. This was a frank admission that the board of trustees believed there is science in teaching, that teaching is

a profession requiring skill and previous training. Such a resolution as this immediately placed the schools on a higher plane, for the profession naturally received a higher consideration in the estimation of the public mind.

At the end of the first year it was observed that several students, ranging from the first to the tenth grades, who for various reasons failed to complete the entire work of their re-



GRADED SCHOOL BUILDING.

spective grades must either spend the whole of next year in the same grade, or pass over the work that was left unfinished. It was seen that with two assistant teachers a bridge-work from one grade to another could be secured, giving the delinquent students an opportunity of advancing as their ability demanded and giving the quicker students an opportunity of passing from one grade to another without being held back with the whole grade until the end of the year. The board, after considering

the merits of such a plan, selected two assistant teachers. The result of this work has been most gratifying.

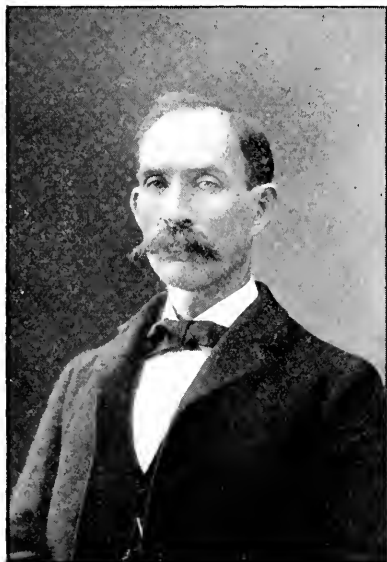
The first two years has been spent in building and equipping the school. Recently the last instalment of furniture was placed in the new building. The entire property is now valued at about \$20,000: \$15,000 in buildings and equipment. The enrollment in the white school for the year is 491, with 11 teachers. In the colored school, 220, with three teachers. This school is doing work of an industrial nature.

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### THE BAR OF MONROE.

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The bar of Monroe is among the best in the State. For many years it could boast of lawyers who were the peers of any in North Carolina. The present members rank high in the profession and have a wide reputation for trying cases well. They practice law on a high plane and observe the most rigid ethics of the profession. They are on the most cordial relations with each other and are free from that petty spirit of envy and rivalry which mars the practice in so many counties.



ROBT. L. STEVENS, ESQ.

He has a natural fondness for politics, and has always

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Robt. L. Stevens was born in Union county on the 11th of July, 1864. After receiving his education, he studied law under the late Geo. N. Falk, and was admitted to the bar in October, 1885.

been an active worker for his party. He bore the brunt of the fights in the days when the Populists were so strong and was elected, as a Democrat, to represent Union in the General Assembly of 1895 and again represented the county in 1899. At the latter session he introduced and fought through the Legislature the "Stevens Anti-Trust Law," over the fierce opposition of the hirelings and agents of monopoly. In May, 1901,



LAW OFFICE OF HILLIARD & LEMMOND.

he was elected Mayor of the city of Monroe. He is just now in the prime of life and an active practitioner at the Monroe bar.

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Reuben W. Lemmond was born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., May 20th, 1872. After leaving school he taught and farmed from 1893 to 1899. In June, 1899, he was elected cotton weigher for the city of Monroe and also engaged in merchandis-

ing. He studied law under Frank Armfield, Esq., and at the University of North Carolina. He applied for and obtained license in September, 1901. He immediately began the practice in Monroe, forming a partnership with Iredell Hilliard. Mr. Lemmond is a self-made man and is rapidly forging to the front. He is a good debater and has an easy flow of language. Messrs. Hilliard & Lemmond are energetic, careful and reliable lawyers.

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H. B. Adams, senior member of the firm of Adams & Jerome, was educated at Trinity College, North Carolina, graduating in 1870. He began the practice of law in Monroe



H. B. ADAMS, ESQ.

in 1872. For thirty years he has enjoyed a good practice in Union and adjoining counties and in the Federal courts. He is quick and accurate, and has a genius for the law. He has served in both branches of the General Assembly and was a leader in that body. In 1894 he received a very flattering vote in the Democratic Congressional Convention, held at Lumberton. Mr. Adams is a Mason, Pythian, Woodman of the World, and a member of the Royal Arcanum. He is a steward in the Methodist church, and a teacher in the Sunday school. He is also a trustee of the

and a teacher in the Sunday school.

Monroe Graded School. Mr. Adams is a gentleman of affable manners and a man of great personal popularity.

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Thomas J. Jerome was born in Union county, N. C., on October 2nd, 1859. He was educated at the Monroe High School and attended the law school of the late Geo. N. Folk. In October, 1884, he received license to practice law and located in Albemarle, North Carolina. In 1889 he moved to Monroe.



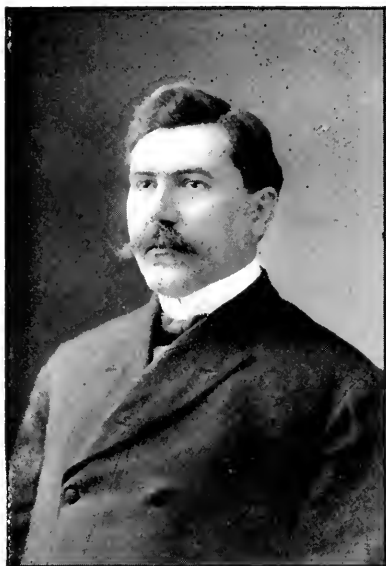
THOS. J. JEROME.

Mr. Jerome is a splendid lawyer and a fine speaker. In 1894 the Democrats of Cabarrus and Stanly ran him for the Senate, but the Fusionists defeated him by a small majority. In 1898 he was elected to the Senate from Union, Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Montgomery counties, by a majority of 3,280. In 1900 he received a very large vote in the Democratic convention for Attorney-General of the State. Aside from his professional duties, he has

written a Criminal Digest, which is used by almost the entire profession in the State. He has also written a political novel, "Ku Klux Klan, No. 40," which is a presentation of affairs in North Carolina just after the war. He is a prominent Mason and Pythian. Adams & Jerome do a very large and successful business.



E. C. Williams is a native of Union county, born Feb. 4, 1868. He studied law at the University of North Carolina. After completing the law course there, he was licensed by the Supreme Court in September, 1890, and at once located in



E. C. WILLIAMS.

Monroe for the practice of his profession, forming a partnership with the late T. D. McCauley. Mr. Williams has always commanded a lucrative practice and makes money as easily as he makes friends. He possesses great native ability and is a strong speaker. He argues facts well and is a very effective jury lawyer. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and serves on one of its very important committees. He takes an active interest in politics. In the progress and development of his

State he is always on the right side of public questions. He is a liberal, frank, big-hearted lawyer, of noble nature and fine appearance.

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Frank Armfield was born in Union county, May 24, 1870. He graduated at Trinity College. At Trinity he won the debater's medal of his society and the orator's medal in a general contest. He attended Neff College of Oratory at Philadelphia and later went to Yale, where he received special mention by



FRANK ARMFIELD.

Carolina Literary and Historical Society and writes excellent poetry. Some of his poems have appeared in the New York World, Atlanta Constitution, Charlotte Observer and other papers. He is now engaged in the preparation of a volume of poems for publication.

President Hadley. He took the law course at the University of North Carolina and was admitted to the bar in February, 1891. He located in Monroe and succeeded from the very first. Mr. Armfield is a well-equipped, all-round lawyer and the firm of Armfield & Williams enjoy a large practice. As a lawyer he is the soul of honor and courtesy; manly in defeat and modest in victory. He served one year as mayor of Monroe, but declined re-election. He is a member of the North

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Mr. R. B. Redwine, of the law firm of Redwine & Stack, was reared on a Union county farm, and began life as a farmer and merchant. He attended school at the celebrated Bingham School. He studied law under the late Dr. John Manning and Judge Shepherd and obtained license in 1889, returning to the University and taking an optional literary and law course and receiving the degree of B. L. In 1891 he began practice in Monroe and at once began to win the success which has come so abundantly to him. He has given good public service as

chairman of the board of county commissioners and as a member of the board of education. In the former position he was largely instrumental in establishing the chain gang and inaugurating road improvement in the county. He was secretary of the



R. B. REDWINE.

Democratic executive committee in 1894, and did fine work. In 1895 he formed a partnership with the late D. A. Covington, which continued until the latter's death. His present partnership was formed in 1900. He has always been a gold standard man and was a Palmer and Buckner elector in 1898, contending that the party leaders had no right to force fusion with the Populists. He was endorsed by the county committee for judge in 1901. Mr. Redwine has always enjoyed a large

practice, both civil and criminal. He has the absolute confidence of his clients and makes their interests his own. He is, both in and out of the court house, the personification of honor and integrity. He stands unflinchingly by principle and truth as he sees them. Mr. Redwine was married in 1895 to Miss Sallie Wall McAlister, of Walltown, Anson county. He devotes what time he can get from his law duties to farming, at which he has made a considerable success.

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A. M. Stack, Esq., was born in Union county, February 12th, 1863, but most of his boyhood was spent in the West. He

graduated at Trinity College in 1884 and obtained license to practice law in October, 1885, moving the same fall to Winston-Salem and becoming editor of a daily paper there. In 1886 he formed a law partnership with Hon. R. B. Glenn and located in Stokes county, where he enjoyed a good practice. For several years he was superintendent of public schools and county attorney.



A. M. STACK.

In 1893 he represented Stokes and Surry counties in the State Senate, the only time that district has ever been represented by a Democrat. In July, 1899, he returned to Union county and January 1st, 1900, became a partner of R. B. Redwine, Esq. Mr. Stack is a fine advocate, and is at his best in the court house and before a jury. He is quick to see the salient points of a case and pushes them. During the spring and summer of 1901 Mr.

Stack took an extensive trip abroad, visiting Egypt and the Holy Land as well as England and several European countries. While on the trip he wrote a series of articles for the Monroe Journal that attracted wide attention. Since returning his services as a lecturer are eagerly sought after.

## THE MONROE ENQUIRER.

The Monroe Enquirer, B. C. and Eugene Ashcraft, proprietors, is the oldest paper in the county, and its long career has been one of extreme usefulness to its town and county. Messrs. Ashcraft Brothers bought the paper in August, 1893, and have since conducted it with conspicuous success. The paper owns its own building, which is elegantly fitted for the purposes of the paper. This office is well equipped and they have a large circula-



THE OFFICE OF THE MONROE ENQUIRER.

tion and a fine advertising patronage. The paper was established in 1872 by W. C. Wolfe and W. J. Boylin. Mr. Wolfe conducted it for a long time alone, and was succeeded by Mr. Boylin, who continued to run the business till 1893. Mr. B. C. Ashcraft, the editor, is a man of wide reading, and each week "gets up" an interesting paper. He is of liberal education, and

was the first student of the A. & M. College of the State. He has been chairman of the county board of education and is now treasurer of the city of Monroe. Mr. Eugene Ashcraft is a very fine practical printer and business manager. Messrs. Ashcraft Brothers are admirably fitted for their work and are making a notable success.

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#### THE MONROE JOURNAL.

The Monroe Journal was established in 1894 by Messrs. G. M.



R. F. BEASLEY.

Beasley & Bro. It has steadily grown in business and influence till it is now one of the best established weekly papers in the State. Every year its circulation is larger than on the preceding one. It owns its own building, located near the public square. It has always been Democratic in principle and outspoken in its views on public questions. It has labored unceasingly for the material, moral and educational advancement of the county, and has maintained a constant agitation

for better schools. Its advertising columns are always filled with good contracts. In addition to the paper, Messrs. Beasley Bros. conduct a large job printing business, drawn from Monroe and surrounding towns. They do work equal to that furnished by city establishments. Mr. G. M. Beasley is a practical man of fine business judgment. He has been in the business since a boy and is thoroughly at home in a printing office. Mr. R. F. Beasley has won considerable reputation as a newspaper man and has done work for other journals. He is a

graduate of Wake Forest College and has been superintendent of education of the county. Mr. J. E. Clark is the local editor of the *Journal*. He is a native of the county and a young man of talent, and enjoys a large popularity.

Dr. John Wm. Neal was born June 25th, 1859, in Stokes



DR. J. W. NEAL.

county, N. C. Graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1881 with the degree of A. B. In 1884 he graduated at the University Medical College of New York City and at once began practice in his native county. Granted license by the State Board of Medical Examiners in 1887 and again returned to New York, where he took a post-graduate course in general medicine

and a special course in diseases of women and children, completing the prescribed course in 1889. In 1890 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners and served for 6 years—four years as chairman of the board. Also served three years on the board of education, resigning when he moved to Monroe. Dr. Neal is a cultivated gentleman and has always stood in the front ranks of his profession. He has been remarkably successful. He came to Monroe in March, 1901, and his success was immediate.

## DR. S. A. STEVENS.

Dr. Samuel A. Stevens, son of the late A. F. Stevens, is thirty-one years old and in the enjoyment of a fine medical practice. He received his education at Trinity College, N. C., and graduated at that institution in 1890. After leaving college, he taught school for five years, first at Union Institute, in Union county, and later at Bain Academy, in Mecklenburg. He attended lectures at the University of Maryland and took a three years' course in medicine there. He went before the State Board of Medical Examiners in 1899 and obtained license to practice. He located at China Grove, in Rowan county, and practiced there for one year. He then returned to Baltimore and, after graduating there in 1900, he came to Monroe and formed a partnership with Dr. W. D. Pemberton in May, 1900. Dr. Stevens has a very fine education and is a polished gentleman. As a physician he is very successful. He is devoted to his profession and keeps himself abreast of the times. He is popular with his professional brethren and enjoys their respect and confidence.

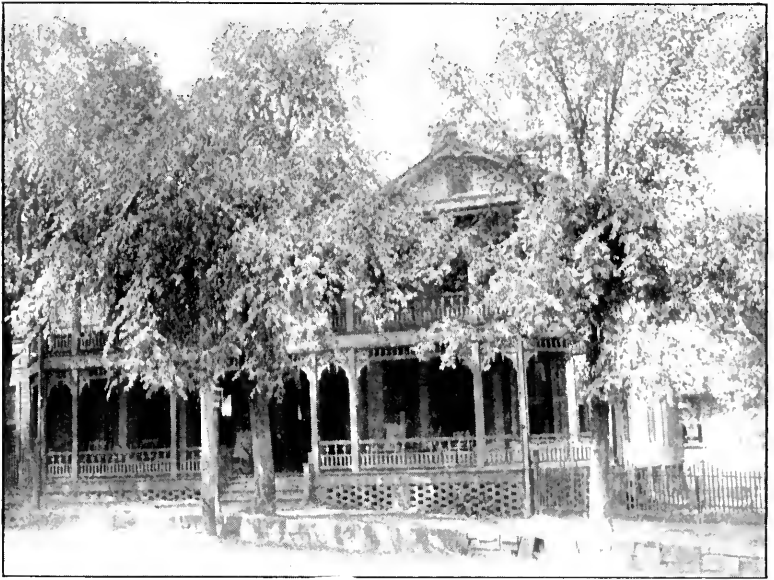
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## THE GLOUCESTER.

In 1898, just after the American naval victory at Santiago, Messrs. Gresham & Jamison, the well known hotelists and caterers, completed their preparations for the opening of their new hotel in Monroe. No name for the house had been selected, and while the names of commanders and warships were on every tongue, some one suggested that the new hotel be named for the Gloucester, one of the American ships which bore a conspicuous part in the battle of Santiago. Mr. Gresham adopted the suggestion and the splendid little hotel became the Gloucester, and under the skillful hands of Messrs. Gresham & Jamison it soon became famous. It was elegantly furnished throughout and its guests sat down to a table unequaled in this section, and little surpassed by the large hotels of the city. When other enterprises took the owners away, Mr. J. J. Lindsey leased the building and furniture and continued the business for a year.



On the first of last January Mrs. Mamie F. Gaddy, of Wadesboro, an experienced hotelist, assumed charge of the Gloucester. Under her management the high standard first set has been fully maintained, and the house is now enjoying a large patronage, and everywhere receives the warmest appreciation from the traveling public. Beside the regular business, many travelers make it a matter of convenience to spend the night there rather



THE GLOUCESTER.

than at adjoining towns. The two things so dear to the traveling man's heart the Gloucester gives—a good bed and a good table. Persons wishing to come to Monroe for the benefit of the fine water will find pleasant living at the Gloucester. A rate of \$10.50 per week is given with a special rate per month. Mr. Robt. B. Flake, an experienced young hotelist, is assistant manager.

## MONROE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

There are, perhaps, a larger percentage of telephone subscribers in Monroe than in any other town in N. C. This is due to the fine service this system gives and the moderate rates which they charge, \$1 per month for residence, \$1.50 for offices and \$2 for business houses. The company was incorporated in 1898, and began business with only 28 'phones. It now has 234 city subscribers, with connections with Charlotte, Wade-



MONROE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

boro, Waxhaw, Marshville, Wingate, Polkton, Peachland, Lilesville, Rockingham, Morven, Matthews, Mt. Holly, Lincolnton, Gastonia, Concord, Osceola, Catawba, Edgemore, Chester, Rock Hill, Fort Mills, Lancaster and Kershaw, and with hundreds of places in the county. The company adopts all the latest and improved apparatus, and its office is open all day and all night.

In the office is a regulator and subscribers are furnished Washington time when they want it, and the office will call subscribers at any hour of the night to meet trains or for other purposes. The officers are: R. A. Morrow, president and general manager, J. D. McRae, vice-president; C. W. Bruner, secretary and treasurer; W. H. Norwood, superintendent; directors, Dr. J. M. Blair, R. A. Morrow, C. W. Bruner, J. R. English, Jas. H. Lee and J. D. McRae; operators, Miss Leola McColl, Miss Claire Ramsey, Miss Dora Aldridge; city collector, Miss Ola Bruner. The central office is located in the new Belk building, in quarters especially constructed for it.

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T. P. DILLON.

T. P. Dillon, the reliable and clever furniture man, was born in Union county in December, 1862, and was educated in the schools of Monroe. He first embarked in cotton buying with J. M. Fairley and followed that for nine years. In 1893 he and the late D. McKenzie engaged in the furniture business. In 1897 Mr. McKenzie sold out to Mr. Dillon, who has since conducted the business alone. Mr. Dillon carries in stock all kinds of furniture, musical instruments and undertakers' supplies. He also does funeral directing and embalming. The writer has known Mr. Dillon from boyhood and knows him to be an honorable, upright Christian and a gentleman. His pocket-book can always be counted on in any enterprise of public utility. Any one wanting anything in his line can be assured of courtesies and proper treatment.

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LEE AND LEE.

When a stranger drops into the handsome building opposite the southwest corner of the public square, he will receive all the favorable impressions usually conveyed by an up-to-date city store. This handsome new structure is the "Lee building," just erected by Mr. Jas. H. Lee, and occupied by Lee & Lee with their big stock of dry goods, millinery, clothing, shoes and hats.

The building is three stories, and one of the prettiest to be found anywhere. Over five thousand square feet of floor are in use by Messrs. Lee & Lee, with double that amount available. There are more than sixty electric lights in the store room. The co-partnership of Lee & Lee was formed in 1892, by Mr. Geo. S. Lee, who was in business here, and Mr. Jas. H. Lee, who came from Marshville that year and bought the Heath & Williamson stock. Before the end of the year these gentlemen moved to the



LEE BUILDING.

Bickett building on Lafayette street, where they continued till their recent removal to the Lee building. Mr. J. H. Lee is the manager, owing to the fact that Mr. G. S. Lee's health necessitates his spending much of the time out of doors. Mr. Lee employs a force of ten clerks even during the dull seasons. Beside the active work of his own business, Mr. Lee is connected with other business enterprises. He has rendered invaluable

service in the construction of the handsome new Methodist church. He is a most public-spirited and progressive citizen, always in the lead when work for his town is to be done.



A. C. JOHNSON.

Twenty years ago, come this fall, a young man of 22 years landed in Monroe. He was from the huckleberry state of Sampson, coming by way of Wilmington, where he had lived some time. His total wealth in cash on hands and in bank, stocks and bonds and real estate, would probably, by a liberal appraisal, guaranteed a month's board at the modest rates then in vogue—no more. Today that young man is a thriving merchant, has land interests, and is altogether one of the most solid citizens of Monroe, not alone in the

success of his business, but in the possession of those elements of character which give a man weight in a community. A picture of this gentleman—A. C. Johnson, Esq.—accompanies this sketch. In 1882 Mr. Johnson began a little grocery store, operating for several years in the old Wolfe building on Lafayette street. In 1886 he moved to his present stand on East Franklin street. The character, push and ability which he has put in his business has told well. He now carries on a large cash and credit trade, deals in fertilizers and is an independent cotton buyer. He is a zealous member of the Methodist church, a Mason and a Knight of Pythias. He has been elected a justice of the peace, and possesses to the utmost the confidence and respect of his fellows. He is never afraid to express an opinion when one is needed, which is a quality always to be admired.

## DR. S. J. WELSH.

Dr. S. J. Welsh has not only the oldest drug store in Monroe, but his is the first one ever established in Union county. Dr. Welsh became a partner in the business in 1882; some time thereafter he bought out the interests of his partners and took his brother, W. B. Welsh, in as a partner. Fifteen years ago Dr. Welsh became sole owner of the business and has since conducted it with much success. Dr. Welsh is a son of the late John R. Welsh, in his day one of the best known men of Lancaster county. He is a graduate of the North Carolina College, and received his medical education at the University of New York, where he graduated in 1881. He came to Monroe in the same year and practiced a year in copartnership with the late Dr. I. H. Blair. He then began his long career as a druggist. He is one of the most public spirited citizens of the town, and has taken a conspicuous part in the work of public education, and was a leading spirit in the move for good schools in Monroe. He is now chairman of the board of trustees of the Graded School and chief of the fire department. He is a Mason, a K. of P., a Heptasoph, and a member of the Royal Arcanum. He has been a Grand Lodge officer, and several times representative to the Grand Lodge of Pythians.

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 THE MONROE FURNITURE CO.

The Monroe Furniture Company was established in March, 1901. Its business has since been growing, and is very satisfactory to the proprietors. The company carries a full line of furniture, and coffins and caskets. They do a large cash and instalment business. Mr. H. E. Copple is manager. He is a native of Davidson county. He graduated at Wake Forest College in 1887, and came to this county to teach at Rock Rest. He spent ten years in high school work in the county and came to Monroe five years ago, buying property and establishing a permanent home. He was for many years moderator of the Union Baptist Association, and is a prominent Heptasoph. As manager of the Monroe Furniture Company he is making a fine success.

## W. H. BELK AND BROTHER.

Andrew Jackson was not the only man born in the Waxhaw settlement who achieved great success in life. In war and politics Jackson was a decided success, but in the great world of business Belk Brothers, born in the Waxhaw settlement, have been equally as successful. W. H. Belk was born June 2nd, 1862, and J. M. Belk was born on July 12th, 1864, just across the line in South Carolina. They came to Monroe when boys



BELK BROTHERS' STORE.

and W. H. Belk clerked several years for B. D. Heath & Company. In 1888 he purchased a small stock of goods and opened a racket store in the building now occupied by Belk Brothers in Monroe, a cut of which appears in this article. Mr. Belk had plenty of experience, but little money. He had friends and he made more. His business grew rapidly, and in 1889 he estab-

lished a racket store in Chester, South Carolina, in partnership with A. W. Klutz. In 1890 Dr. J. M. Belk bought an interest in the store at Monroe and moved here the same year. Previous to this he had been practicing his profession at Morven, N. C., and was a successful physician. He, too, possessed very limited means, but both the Belk boys had what was rather to be chosen than great riches. They had good names and their credit was good. In 1891 they opened a store at Union, S. C., with R. P. Harry, under the firm name of Harry & Belk. In 1895 they went into Charlotte with a department store, occupying a building with four large rooms. Their success was immediate in that thriving city and they continued to branch out. In 1899 they opened up a department store in the hustling city of Greensboro, as Harry-Belk Brothers. During the same year they established another store, at Gastonia, as Kindly Belk Bros. Company, Mr. W. E. Kindly in charge. At all points their affairs prospered and during this year (1902) they started up another large store at Salisbury as Belk-Harry Company, and another store at Waxhaw, incorporated as R. J. Belk Company, Mr. R. J. Belk in charge. Belk Brothers are also partners in the large grocery business of J. R. Simpson & Company, on LaFayette street, Monroe. Besides the various stores named above, they are stockholders in the Monroe Hardware Company, The Monroe Telephone Company, The W. J. Rudge Company's book store, the Monroe Roller Mill, The Piedmont Fire Insurance Company (W. H. Belk being a director), The Piedmont Clothing Company (W. H. Belk, president), and Cole Cotton Planter Manufactory, the last three at Charlotte; The Union Cotton Mill and the Union Hosiery Mills, at Union, S. C.; The Cliffside Cotton Mill, and also stock in a large New York hat house. They buy hats, hosiery, clothing, etc., from the mills and houses that they are interested in and thereby get them cheaper, as the profits of the middle men are eliminated. They own their own store buildings in Monroe, the beautiful new brick building occupied by the book store and telephone exchange, and other valuable real estate in this city. Mr. W. H. Belk owns individually an elegant orange grove in Florida, and some fine farm lands near Waxhaw.



Dr. J. M. Belk will soon have completed the most elegant and costly residence in Monroe.

The success of these two brothers is without a precedent. From an humble beginning their business has grown as if by magic. They are born merchants. Affable, obliging, unselfish, public spirited, fair and honest, they make and hold friends without an effort. They are consistent members of the church and enjoy the esteem and confidence of all who know them.

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#### H. M. BROOM.

H. M. Broom, dealer in staple and fancy groceries, began merchandising in Monroe in May, 1882, where the express office now is. In 1890 he moved to his present large store in the Houston block and took into partnership with him Moses Cone, of Baltimore. Mr. Cone continued his connection with the business until he married, when he presented to Mrs. Cone his interest in the store as a bridal present. Mrs. Cone remained a partner for about a year and then sold out to Mr. Broom. He has been sole owner ever since. Mr. Broom started out with a very limited capital, but by industry, close attention to business, and by quick sales and small profits, he has built up a big trade and accumulated considerable property. Besides his beautiful residence on Jefferson street, he owns several nice houses and lots in Monroe and in North Monroe. Henry Broom, as his friends familiarly call him, firmly believes in the maxim that "honesty is the best policy." If you have any dealings with him he will surely treat you right, as his legion of friends and patrons will testify.

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#### THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

The Commercial is a new house of twenty-three rooms, all of which are newly furnished. Mr. N. G. Russell is the pro-

prietor, and under his management the house has been very successful, both as regards regular boarders and transient business. The house is centrally located, one block from the depot,



THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

near the business portion of the town and within easy reach of the artesian well. The Commercial offers visitors a weekly rate of \$6, with special monthly rates.

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THE W. J. RUDGE COMPANY.

The accompanying picture shows the pretty interior of the book, stationery fancy goods and jewelry store of the W. J. Rudge Company, and a visit to this store will verify the impression made by the picture that this is one of the prettiest stores of its kind to be found in North Carolina. Not only is it pretty,

but it is likewise commodious, having a floor space of 31x90 feet. That handsome building was recently erected by Belk Bros. and was constructed especially for this firm. The interior is finely finished, which, with the many large floor show cases, and other up-to-date furnishings, accounts for the fine effect upon a visitor as he enters the door. The company is incorpo-



INTERIOR OF THE W. J. RUDGE COMPANY'S STORE.

rated and has the following officers: R. A. Morrow, president; Dr. J. M. Belk, vice-president; W. J. Rudge, secretary and treasurer and general manager. Papers of incorporation were granted in October, 1900, and the company has since been doing a thriving business. Mr. Rudge, the manager, is assisted by his sister, Miss Kate Rudge, both of whom are exceedingly popular. Mr. Rudge is yet a very young man, and a bright

future lies before him. The company has a large trade in school books, books of a general nature, magazines, jewelry and fancy goods.

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#### THE MONROE HARDWARE COMPANY.

The Monroe Hardware Company began business in February, 1901. It was incorporated with the following officers: D. E. Allen, of Charlotte, president; Dr. J. M. Belk, vice-president; M. C. Sims, Charlotte, secretary; R. Redfearn, treasurer and general manager. The business is both wholesale and retail. It occupies the large new store of Shute Bros., pictured else-



MR. RANDOLPH REDFEARN.

where, and is rapidly growing. The floor space occupied is 16,200 square feet, in a building constructed especially for the purpose. The business and financial ability behind this company guarantee that it will be one of the biggest concerns of its kind in this section. Mr. Randolph Redfearn, the manager, is one of Monroe's best citizens. He studied at Wake Forest College and came to Monroe in 1883. He is of good business judgment

and fine integrity. Within recent years he has put much money in real estate, having constructed more than fifteen houses at a cost of from \$2,500 down, for rent in the town. Mr. Redfearn is a prominent member of the Baptist church and enjoys the confidence of all.

## THE HEATH-MORROW COMPANY.

The Heath-Morrow Company, at this place, is a kindred corporation, owned by the same people who also have stores at Albemarle and Waxhaw, and at Pickens, S. C. The company in its present shape was incorporated under the laws of North Carolina in 1900. Its president is Mr. A. W. Heath: vice-president, O. P. Heath: general manager, R. A. Morrow. The beginning of this business runs back perhaps twenty-five or thirty years and was made by B. D. Heath, now of Charlotte. In the year 1890 B. D. Heath, whose firm was one of the old landmarks, sold out to Heath, Morrow & Co., the firm being composed of B. D. and A. W. Heath and R. A. and J. M. Morrow. In 1893 B. D. Heath sold out entirely. In 1896 Mr. O. P. Heath bought an interest in the business, and also in that of Morrow, Heath & Company.

Mr. R. A. Morrow, the general manager, came to this county in 1888 and began business with his brother at Waxhaw. He came from Charlotte, resigning the position there as head of the retail credit department of Wittkowsky & Baruch. He is a man of much business enterprise, is an exceedingly public-spirited man, and takes great interest in all public questions as well as in business.

The company is wholly a wholesale concern, having discontinued all retail business January 1st. They have two traveling salesmen, and cover large portions of North and South Carolina. Their trade is extending rapidly and they will no doubt be one of the largest wholesale concerns in the State. They have large warehouses at Norfolk, and ship goods direct from that port, hence are on terms of equality with the merchants of that city and Richmond. They have two warehouses in Monroe, one for meats and lards and one for grain and kindred articles. Possessed of ample capital, a good territory to develop, and their shipping facilities, it is no wonder that their business is rapidly increasing.

## THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF MONROE.

The People's Bank of Monroe began its long and successful career in 1874, with the late H. M. Houston as president, and Mr. E. A. Armfield cashier. Two years later Mr. Armfield resigned, and the late Col. W. H. Fitzgerald was elected cashier and served with great fidelity till April, 1896. Mr. F. H. Wolfe, who was bookkeeper, was succeeded in 1885 by Mr. W. C. Wolfe, who since that year has been steadily with the bank. This gentleman was elected cashier in 1896 when ill health compelled Col. Fitzgerald to retire. When advancing age and infirmities compelled Mr. Houston to terminate his long and useful connection with the bank as its president, Mr. O. P. Heath, a well-known business man and financier, was elected president. The present officers and directors are: O. P. Heath, J. R. English, F. B. Ashcraft, J. H. Lee, A. H. Crowell, W. H. Phifer, R. W. Morrow, directors: O. P. Heath, president: W. C. Wolfe, cashier: W. H. Phifer, teller: Howard Wolfe, clerk.

The bank does a safe business, but is ready always to accommodate persons entitled to credit. It enjoys to the highest degree the confidence of the public, as shown by the large deposits. The deposits subject to check average \$100,000, and time deposits \$65,000. The capital stock is \$11,000, with a surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$18,000.

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D. A. HOUSTON AND BROTHER.

D. A. Houston, senior member of the firm of D. A. Houston & Brother, was born November 19, 1871, and was educated at Trinity College, North Carolina. After graduating with the degree of A. B. in June, 1891, he was elected assistant instruc-

tor and Treasurer of the College, and served for two years.



D. A. HOUSTON.

Association. He has served one term as alderman of the city. In September, 1900, he admitted into partnership with him his brother, Clarence E. Houston. The junior member is also a native of this city, and was born November 22, 1874. He was educated at Trinity College, North Carolina, and afterwards entered the Maryland College of Pharmacy in July, 1900. He is a member of the State Phar-

He then went to Mt. Airy, N. C., and engaged in the drug business. He remained there three and one-half years. In 1895 he was granted license to practice pharmacy by the State Board. In 1897 he returned to Monroe, his "native heath," and opened up a large and select line of drugs in the Houston block. Since his return to Monroe he has been a factor in the progress of the city. He has served as director in the Monroe Oil & Fertilizer Company, the Henderson Roller Mill, and the Perpetual Building & Loan



CLARENCE E. HOUSTON.

macautical Association, and is an up-to-date Pharmacist. He is an unmarried man of pleasing address, and adds much to the popular favor of Houston's Drug Store.

D. A. Houston & Brother deal in everything usually kept in a first-class drug store, and pay especial attention to filling prescriptions day or night. These gentlemen are grandsons of the late H. M. Houston and are devisees of very valuable property interests under his will, D. A. Houston being one of the executors. In every particular this firm is a strong one. Their large and growing trade is not the result of chance, but of their methods of doing business. They study their trade and strive

to please their patrons. Mr. Carl Blakeney is connected with this popular store, and his urbane and magnetic manners so impress customers that they always come again when wanting anything in the drug line.



F. B. ASHCRAFT.

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J. R. ENGLISH AND CO.

The old and reliable firm of J. R. English & Co., on South Lafayette street, is composed of John

R. English and F. B. Ashcraft. They began business at their present stand in 1884. Both of them, however, had had considerable experience in selling goods before that. The active management of the business is in the hands of Mr. Ashcraft, Mr. English giving his personal attention to his drug store. The large two-story brick building occupied by J. R. English & Co. belongs to the firm and is filled with a complete stock of general merchandise. They carry dry goods, shoes, hats, heavy groceries and farm supplies generally. This firm is one of the strongest in Monroe, both members of it being men of large means. They are thoroughly identified with



the growth and best interests of Monroe and at all times are willing to give of their means and influence to promote the city's welfare. Mr. Ashcraft is chairman of the Board of Education of the county and is a great church worker. His influence is always on the side of right and in his business dealings, as in all his conduct, he is a most exemplary gentleman.

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#### THE MONROE COTTON MILL.

The Monroe Cotton Mill was built on the co-operative plan. On account of inadequate capital the mill was not prosperous until it was bought by the present owners in August, 1895. The product is 20—1 and 22—1 hosiery on cones; 24—2 and 26—2 skeins and 30—2 chain all ball warps. It is now owned solely by home people. O. P. Heath is president, J. R. English vice-president, and W. C. Heath secretary and treasurer and manager. When the mill was bought by the present owners there were 4,109 spindles; now there are more than double that number, consuming annually 3,500 bales of cotton. The Messrs. Heath, who own a controlling amount of stock in this mill, are interested in several other mills. Since January, 1897, Capt. W. C. Heath has been in active management of the mill, and its success is in a great measure due to his fine executive ability and splendid business methods. The management of help is a very important part of a mill manager's business. In this Capt. Heath has been very successful, so that today he has 200 operatives who are contented, because they have implicit confidence in their employer. He knows every one of the operatives by name, and if one has a grievance he knows that he can get a patient hearing by Capt. Heath personally. By fair treatment and a square administration of justice, no matter who was the loser thereby, all labor troubles have been avoided. The employees come from the adjacent country and are people of native common sense and have a personal regard for the manager of the mill, and one of Capt. Heath's firmest rules is that children should not be mistreated. In this way he always secures the best of help. Capt. Heath is a man of business, both by education and by instinct. Educated at the Citadel, the famous school at Charleston, he won

much reputation as an officer of the State guard, in which he rose to the rank of major. While he was captain of the Monroe company that organization was the best drilled one in the State. He is a recognized leader among the mill men of the State, and his reputation extends beyond the State in mill circles. He now holds the responsible position of chairman of the board of governors of the Southern Cotton Spinners' Association.

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THE HENDERSON ROLLER MILLS.

The Henderson Roller Mill began work in July, 1901, the building having been erected and equipped at a cost of \$10,000.



THE HENDERSON ROLLER MILL.

The capacity of the mill is 100 barrels of flour, 250 bushels of meal and 250 bushels of corn per day. The mills do a large exchange and merchant work. It will have a fine effect on local grain growing. Mr. J. E. Henderson, a mill man of long expe-

rience, is the manager and largest holder of stock; Mr. J. R. English is president and Mr. T. C. Lee secretary and treasurer.

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CROW BROTHERS.

The well-known firm of Crow Brothers is composed of J. J.



J. J. CROW.

Both members of the firm are young men of energy and excellent business capacity. Besides their large mercantile trade, they are the principal stockholders in the Monroe Warehouse Company and other corporations and are wide-awake, public-spirited citizens, who join in every enterprise looking to the betterment and upbuilding of their city. Fair dealing and liberality have secured for these gentlemen troops of friends.

and R. D. Crow. They began business at their present stand in 1891 in co-partnership with Mr. J. M. Fairley. In 1893 Mr. Fairley sold his interest to Crow Brothers, whose success has been phenomenal. They buy cotton, handle commercial fertilizers and deal in farm supplies on a large scale. They do an immense time business.



R. D. CROW.

## R. V. HOUSTON, ESQ.

Mr. R. V. Houston enjoys the distinction of being the oldest original citizen of Monroe. He is 56 years of age, and no one has lived in Monroe so long as he.



R. V. HOUSTON.

Though very young at the time, he volunteered in Company C, 10th N. C. Artillery, under Capt. C. M. T. McCauley. He has ever been an enthusiastic Confederate. He has subscribed \$50 to the proposed Confederate monument for the county, and has in other ways shown his love for the cause. After the war he engaged in merchandising under the firm name of Houston & Co. He has since been engaged in farming, and is now one of the largest planters in the county. He now operates more than twenty plows. Mr. Houston, though enjoying wide

popularity, has never sought office, though if he had turned his attention to politics there is no doubt he would have achieved large success in that field. He spends his time quietly in looking after his large property interests and in directing his farms. He has fine conversational powers, is a natural wit and never fails to entertain and amuse any crowd in which he may fall.

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J. SHUTE AND SONS.

The firm of J. Shute & Sons is composed of H. A. Shute, J. R. Shute and J. T. Shute, sons of the late John Shute. During the year 1856 Mr. John Shute moved to Monroe from South Car-

olina and engaged in farming on a limited scale on the land where Shutes' brick yard now stands, near the cotton mill, and at the Darling Broom place near the city. In 1866 he began merchandising in Monroe. In 1870 Mr. Shute started a gin, run by horse power, where the passenger depot now stands. By the industry and economy of himself and his boys, the business soon began to enlarge and expand. In 1875 they added another



CENTRAL HOTEL.

gin and a wool carding machine, run by a small steam engine. About the same time they started a flouring mill in connection with their gin. In 1880 they purchased the Winchester & Morgan gin, on Lafayette street, where their present gins are situated, and added four more gins to the plant. During the year 1892 they added a planing machine and began to manufacture doors, blinds, sash and all kinds of building material.

Their present large brick-making plant had its genesis in a small mud mill, started up in 1885 and run by a horse. Their present mill is run by a 50-horse power boiler and engine and has a capacity of 30,000 brick per day.



MR. J. R. SHUTE.

their numerous employes. Mr. J. T. Shute superintends the ginning, planing and brick-making plants. Mr. H. A. Shute looks after their farming, stock-raising, etc.

In addition to the foregoing, this firm owns in Monroe about sixty dwelling houses, shops and stores, which they rent to other people besides a large brick ware house for storing cotton and the splendid livery stable building now occupied by Shannon & Co. They also own the

In the year 1896 the father, Mr. John Shute, died and the business passed into the hands of his three sons, H. A., J. R., and J. T. Shute. In order to better manage their varied interests and enterprises, they have allotted to each a particular branch of the business. Mr. J. R. Shute has control of the mercantile department, keeps the books and settles with



J. T. SHUTE.

Central Hotel, the Opera House and the elegant new structure at present occupied by the Monroe Hardware Co., photographs of which are herein printed. Messrs. J. Shute & Sons pay more



H. A. SHUTE.

taxes than any other person, firm or corporation in Union county. Every dollar they own is an honest dollar and earned by their own labor. What they buy they pay cash for and what they own is all paid for.

These gentlemen have done much for Monroe. For years they have furnished employment to a very large number of laborers and they have given to Monroe many of its most substantial and beautiful buildings. In their business transactions they are "as straight as a shingle," dealing justly and

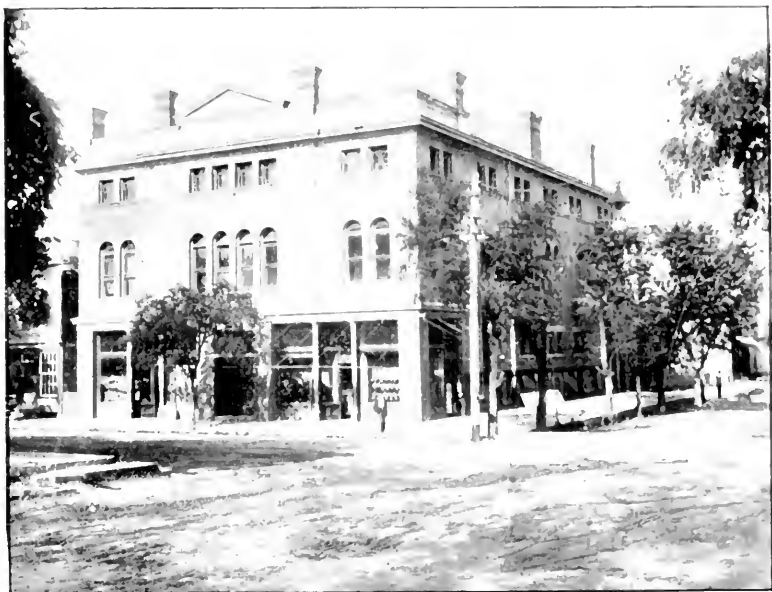
honestly with every one and expecting the same sort of treatment. They are regarded as among the city's finest business men and richly deserve the success which they have achieved.

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#### THE PERPETUAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

In the spring of 1885 Monroe was favored with a visit from Sam'l Wittkowsky, of Charlotte, a well-known building and loan association man. A public meeting was held and Mr. Wittkowsky made a speech on homes and home building, bringing to the attention of the large audience present the advantages of a building and loan association organized on the perpetual system, that is, a system that allows new stock to be sold at stated periods. As a result of this meeting the Perpetual Building & Loan Asso-

ciation of Monroe was organized. The late H. M. Houston was elected president and served faithfully for several years until the election of Mr. J. R. English, one of our best business men. T. D. Winchester, Esq., was the first secretary and treasurer and served for three years, being succeeded by Mr. W. C. Wolfe, who yet fills the position with great satisfaction. Since the organization three hundred loans have been made to those desirous of



MONROE OPERA HOUSE, SHUTE AND SONS OWNERS AND MANAGERS.

buying or building homes, and at this time the Association has loaned out the sum of \$37,165.00, which has been expended in buying, building and improving the homes of the stockholders. The great usefulness of the Association cannot be put too strongly. The stockholder who borrows money to build pays six per cent on his loan and gets four and three-quarter per cent on his investment, this being the amount of profit made for him



by the Association, there being practically no expense of operation except taxes. The present officers are J. R. English, president; W. C. Wolfe, secretary and treasurer; Adams & Jerome, attorneys; J. R. English, J. H. Lee, C. W. Bruner, F. B. Ashcraft, D. A. Houston, W. C. Wolfe, R. A. Morrow, directors. The Association has never lost a dollar by bad investment, nor closed but two or three mortgages.

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#### THE McRAE MERCANTILE COMPANY.

For a large number of years Colonel A. H. Crowell and son, A. M. Crowell, ran a large and successful mercantile business in Monroe. In 1894 they retired, disposing of their stock of goods to J. D. McRae and T. C. Collins. These gentlemen kept up the high reputation of their predecessors. In September, 1901, Messrs. McRae & Collins dissolved, Mr. McRae continuing until January, 1902, when the "McRae Mercantile Company" was organized with a paid-up capital of \$12,000, with privilege of increasing to \$25,000. W. C. Heath is president, W. S. Lee is vice-president and J. D. McRae secretary, treasurer and general manager. This company carries a large and varied stock of general merchandise, handles fertilizers and farmers' supplies. All of the officers of the corporation are most excellent men and it is pleasant to trade with them. Their fair dealing is shown by their large patronage.

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#### THE ENGLISH DRUG COMPANY.

In 1874, Mr. J. R. English, then a young man just 21 years old, came from the Quaker settlement of Guilford and pitched his tent in Monroe. Today no man in the county stands ahead of him in the public's confidence in his integrity of character, thrift and business enterprise. Since the beginning, with slight intermissions, he has continued in the drug business, beginning as clerk for Blair, Walsh & Flow, druggists. With H. C. Ashcraft he soon bought out the old firm, and as English

& Ashcraft moved to his present stand in 1883. In 1885 he bought his partner's interest. In 1888 he, with Mr. S. O.



J. R. ENGLISH.

oughly identified with all the various interests of the town.

Mr. Blair has been in the drug business since boyhood. He graduated at the Maryland College of Pharmacy in 1888, and immediately began business in Monroe.

Mr. Frank English, another pharmacist of the company, graduated at the Maryland College of Pharmacy in the class of 1900.

Blair, bought out L. H. Blair & Co., and a year later the two stocks were united, Mr. English and Mr. S. O. Blair forming the present English Drug Company. The firm has a branch store in Raleigh—C. B. Crowell & Co.—and has at different times established branch stores at other points, and afterwards disposing of them. The firm enjoys a large retail, jobbing and country store supply trade. Beside this business, Mr. English is thor-



S. O. BLAIR.

## THE HEATH-LEE HARDWARE COMPANY.

This is not only the largest single mercantile establishment in Union county, but one of the largest of its kind in the State. The present business was begun in 1887 as the Heath Hardware Company, this company buying the small hardware stock of J. M. Stewart, situated on Lafayette street in the frame building now occupied by J. R. Simpson & Co. Here the business was



THE HEATH-LEE HARDWARE COMPANY.

carried on till 1891 when the present large building on Franklin street was erected. The business was managed and greatly extended by Capt. W. C. Heath until January, 1896, when he gave up the management to take charge of the Monroe Cotton Mill. Mr. B. D. Heath retired and Messrs. W. S. Lee and C. F. Lowe at that time bought interests in the business and Mr. W. S. Lee became manager. His success has been as marked as was that of Capt. Heath. In December, 1900, the firm was incor-

porated as the Heath-Lee Hardware Company, at which time Mr. A. W. Heath retired. The incorporators were W. C. Heath, W. S. Lee, C. F. Lowe and J. A. Stewart. Capt. W. C. Heath is president; Mr. W. S. Lee general manager, and Mr. C. F. Lowe secretary and treasurer. The paid up capital is \$60,000. The company does an extensive wholesale business, beside their great retail trade. They travel men in North and South Carolina, and their volume of business is ever on the increase. Their main store room is 180 feet long, and beside this they have in the rear a mammoth warehouse. Mr. Lee, with the assistance of Mr. Lowe, gives his whole time to the management. He is one of the most public-spirited citizens of the town, and is always a leader in any movement for the general welfare.

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#### A. M. CROWELL.

A. M. Crowell, one of the largest property owners and most public-spirited men of Monroe, first saw the light in Union county, N. C., February 20th, 1811. He came to Monroe in 1874, and with Col. A. H. Crowell, his father, began merchandising. After running with great success for twenty years they retired from business on account of the advanced age of Col. Crowell. Since 1894, Mr. A. M. Crowell has been principally engaged in the management of his large private interests, although he has often been called to serve the public in different capacities. He has been city alderman two terms, a justice of the peace, city tax collector and treasurer and trustee of Monroe's excellent graded school. Mr. Crowell is a public spirited gentleman and a model citizen, enjoying the esteem and friendship of all who know him.

## E. A. ARMFIELD AND SONS.

This firm is composed of E. A. Armfield, Davis Armfield and Rufus Armfield. The senior member began dealing in horses and mules in 1870. Later on he and N. S. Ogburn became associated together, and continued for several years in the stock



E. A. ARMFIELD AND SONS' LIVERY STABLES.

business. Mr. Ogburn finally became sole owner and Mr. Armfield gave his entire attention to his other business. In 1890 he opened up again at the present stand, corner of Church and Jefferson streets. In 1897 he took in Mr. Davis Armfield, and in 1899 took in Mr. Rufus Armfield. The two latter now have the active management of the business. They are both clever young men, and treat the patrons of the firm right. By selecting stock suitable to this section they have built up a fine trade in Union and surrounding counties. Their fairness is shown

by the fact that neither member of the firm has ever had any litigation over a trade in stock. Besides their sales stable, these gentlemen own a large gin, saw and grist mill six miles south of Monroe and also run a large farm. The amount of business they do demonstrates that square dealing is the surest way to success.



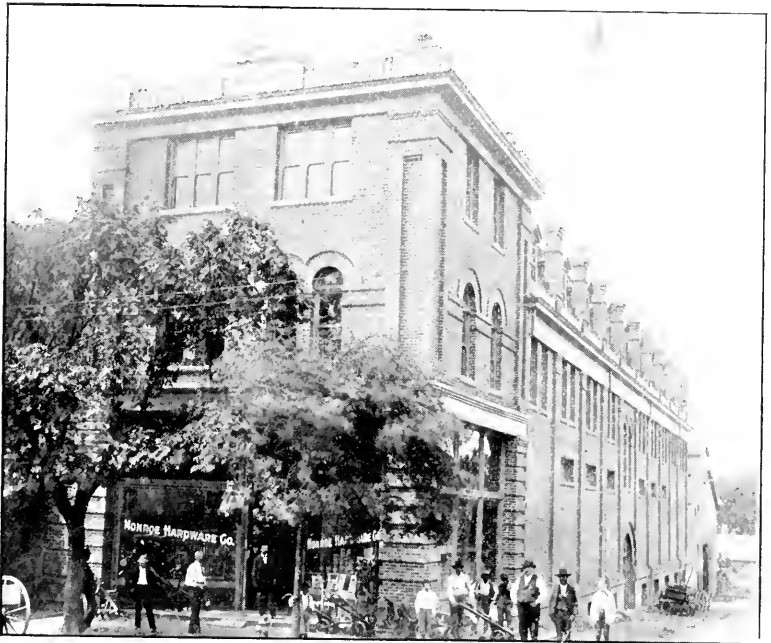
RESIDENCE AND GROUNDS OF R. B. REDWINE, ESQ.

A. LEVY.

A. Levy, the well-known dry goods man, is a Frenchman by birth, and came to Monroe in the spring of 1878 and began selling dry goods under the firm name of Lichtenstein & Levy. This firm continued until 1897, since which time Mr. Levy has been alone. During these twenty-four years Mr. Levy has built up a reputation for low prices and good goods. He carries a big line of dry goods, notions, shoes, hats, clothing, etc. Mrs. Levy conducts a first-class millinery in connection with her husband's business and knows just how to please the ladies.

## T. J. SHANNON AND COMPANY.

This firm is composed of T. J. Shannon and E. M. Welsh. Mr. Welsh resides in South Carolina and is the father-in-law of Mr. Shannon. The latter first began selling goods at Jefferson, S. C., but moved to Monroe in 1894. Shannon & Co. do a wholesale and retail mercantile business in hardware, dry goods, shoes, notions, etc., and also deal largely in wagons, buggies and farming implements. Their principal stores are in the Shute building, at the corner of Franklin and Hayne streets. They run a livery stable on Franklin street and a grocery store at corner of Church and Franklin streets. They also have a retail store at Jefferson, S. C. Mr. Shannon, aside from his other enterprises, deals largely in stock and cattle and farms considerably. He is a very busy man and a splendid business man.



SHUTE BROS.' NEW BUILDING, OCCUPIED BY MONROE HARDW. CO.

## CAPT. W. E. CASON.

When the G. C. & N. Railway came from Atlanta to Monroe it brought with it a number of young men who married in Monroe. One of these



young men was Captain W. E. Cason, who married Miss Mattie Austin. Capt. Cason is a native of Georgia and has been with the Seaboard a long time. He was, for a number of years, road master of the G. C. & N. He is now one of the popular conductors on the vestibule from Monroe to Atlanta. Capt. Cason has saved his money and is the owner of valuable real estate in Monroe. He also has a very fine farm in Butord township. He is a man of splendid appearance, excellent habits

CAPT. W. E. CASON.

and is a model citizen.

## M. L. FLOW.

M. L. Flow, dealer in fancy groceries, has long been connected with the public life of Monroe. For a long time he was deputy clerk of the Superior court and a most efficient one he was. He has served many years as a justice of the peace, notary public, commissioner of affidavits, etc., and always does his business with tact and skill. Mr. Flow conducts a fancy grocery and carries in stock a large assortment of candies, fruits, canned





(1) RESIDENCE OF A. M. CROWELL.



(2) RESIDENCE OF THE LATE COL. A. H. CROWELL.

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#### AUSTIN AND HENDERSON.

Austin & Henderson, dealers in staple and fancy groceries, do a nice business. V. C. Austin and F. G. Henderson constitute the firm and they are young men of energy, honesty and popularity. They are on Franklin street, in the Enquirer building, where bargains in their line can be had. Their goods are fresh and cheap and Messrs. Austin and Henderson are the soul of politeness to their customers.

## CURLEE AND LINDSEY.

O. C. Curlee and J. J. Lindsey, merchandise brokers under the firm name of Curlee & Lindsey, have their office in the Fitzgerald building, on Lafayette street, opposite the Gloucester Hotel. They are wholesale brokers and commission merchants, dealing in flour, grain, meat, lard, etc. They represent several large mills and packing houses and sell goods on a very small margin. They are both men of experience in their line and have an extensive trade, which is constantly growing. They are both public spirited citizens and each enjoys much personal popularity.

Not much has been said in these pages of an historical nature. The idea has been to give a picture of present life and activity. Were any historical sketch attempted it would deal largely with

the men of the town and county, whose personalities have given direction to the activities of the people. In the history of the town the pioneers would occupy a large space. Among them are names of men well known in their day, and some of them living to ripe old ages have been known to the younger generation. All of them have passed away. Among these names are those of Joseph McLaughlin, who built the first storehouse here; T. D. Winchester, John D. Stewart,



THE LATE H. M. HOUSTON.

and C. Austin, M. Austin, John Shute, Capt. C. M. T. McCauley, Maj. D. A. Covington, Col. S. H. Walkup, Henderson Simpson, A. E. Stevens, Col.

W. H. Fitzgerald, Patterson Houston, B. F. Houston, A. A. Laney, A. M. Crowell and H. M. Houston. The latter was one of the best known men who ever lived in this section. He was the largest property owner of the town at the time of his death, having spent a long time in close attention to business, in frugal habits, and the practice of a



RESIDENCE OF H. M. BROOM.

virtuous economy. He came to Monroe at the beginning of the town and till his death at the age of 84 years was active as a merchant, farmer, banker, etc. He was a member of the Secession Convention, having been elected as Union county's delegate, and as a Union man.

## CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

BY J. E. CLARK.

The Monroe dispensary is one of the public institutions of the town, and, as such, requires a place in the town and county's write-up. It may be said at the beginning that there is to be an election on the question in September, and the people of the county are to pass finally upon the question as to whether they desire the dispensary continued or discontinued.

One of the greatest of the many problems which confront this growing nation, quivering with the repressed energy of youth and meeting and answering great questions almost before more deliberate countries realize their existence, is that of the control of the liquor traffic. From the great fights in New York City, where the liquor power is felt in all its might, down to the rural community which is nominally "dry" by legislative enactment, none are free from the disturbing question. While Greater New York is struggling with the alternative of surrendering to the bar-keepers entirely or enforcing an inadequate and unpopular law against Sunday selling, hundreds of rural communities are invaded with impudent peddlers who operate without license and in defiance of law. From the first it has been a recognized principle that the strong arm of the law must in some form or other take cognizance of the traffic. So far the attitude of the law has been one of three forms: prohibition, the saloon system, or what, for want of a better name, are called dispensaries. The latter plan is the one adopted by Monroe. This one dispensary is the only place in Union county in which liquor may be legally sold. Other towns have prohibition and it is safe to say that saloons are permanently banished from the town and county. This is a very important consideration to home-seekers. Our system is considered by many to be the best possible control of the liquor traffic at present obtainable. A few statements of fact in regard to this institution may not be uninteresting in this connection:

Up to and including the year 1897 the town of Monroe had, always three, and sometimes five saloons. In that year the Legislature established the dispensary, to go into effect January 1st, 1898, and Messrs. John J. Crow, O. W. Biggers and Geo. S. Lee, three of our very best citizens, were named as commissioners to establish and maintain a dispensary. These gentlemen did as directed by the law, and appointed Mr. W. R. Marsh manager, and Mr. W. H. Austin clerk. All of these gentlemen have given unselfish service, and only one of them, Mr. Lee, has severed his official connection, and that only because he was elected to another office. Mr. R. H. Haines, of West Monroe township, was appointed in Mr. Lee's place. The profits of this business have been distributed from year to year according to law as follows:

## FOR THE YEAR 1898.

To the City of Monroe.....	\$1,118.10
To the Public Schools of the County.....	1,118.10
Total .....	<u>\$2,236.20</u>

## FOR THE YEAR 1899.

To the City of Monroe.....	\$1,355.31
To the Public Schools of the County.....	1,355.31
To the Chain Gang Fund.....	796.65
Total .....	<u>\$3,507.27</u>

## FOR THE YEAR 1900.

To the City of Monroe.....	\$1,500
To the Public Schools of the County.....	1,500
To the Chain Gang.....	1,500
Total .....	<u>\$4,500</u>

## FOR THE YEAR 1901.

To the City of Monroe.....	\$1,601.63
To the Public Schools of the County.....	1,601.63
To the Chain Gang.....	1,601.63
To the Graded Schools.....	1,195.11
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$6,000.00
Total amount distributed for public purposes in four years .....	\$16,213.45

Under the old system of licensing saloons, not half of this amount could possibly have been collected in taxes for the purposes of law and order and education, while there is no question that the saloons would have sold much more liquor in a much more harmful manner. The dispensary idea rests upon the proposition that as long as liquor is made and sold in contiguous territory, some men will have it by either lawful or unlawful means, and that it is best for the community that they be lawful, and that instead of letting the profits of an unavoidable business go into the hands of law-breakers and fugitives from justice, they should go to the educational fund and towards the maintenance of order. The two great points in favor of our way of controlling the liquor traffic are: 1st. It tends to lessen the drink habit. It does this by preventing social drinking and treating. All liquors are sold in corked vessels, which are not allowed to be opened on the premises. Thus there are no mixed drinks, no fancy drinks, and none of those blandishments which entice young men to acquire the drink habit. The dispensary says to the man who drinks liquor, "You may have your liquor, but there shall go with it none of those seductive influences which tempt other men to become drinkers."

2nd. It takes the profits of the business from private hands and devotes them to public good. It is a notorious fact that saloon men spend large parts of their profits in spreading their business, giving free drinks and fighting opposition. An officer of a liquor dealers' association said in a public address to saloon-

keepers, "Nickels and dimes spent in free drinks to young men will reap a rich harvest in dollars from future customers." The dispensary sows no seed to produce drunkards.

It may be noticed that the dispensary profits have increased from year to year. This is due to the fact that opposition to this method has been gradually dying away, and that illegal sales in all parts of the county have become less and less each year, and those consumers who formerly, through prejudice or for other reasons, bought no liquor from the dispensary now buy there. In spite of prejudice and the sternest opposition, the dispensary has worked its way. The results are that there is no more orderly town to be found than Monroe. An arrest for drunkenness is a comparative rarity, and where formerly crowds of half drunken loafers gathered in mobs about the bars and on the street corners, the streets are clear and as orderly as a lady's parlor. These views are expressed as those of the writer of this article and have been formed after careful and deliberate observation. Monroe can confidently offer to home-seekers a town free from the saloon danger, where their boys are not enticed to become drunkards, and where there is the least possible danger from the great evils of the liquor traffic.















